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THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

THE VOICE FROM TAHITI.

WHILST we are engaged week after week in enforcing, not altogether in vain, but, alas! with too limited a success, the importance of anti-state-church principles—whilst we are labouring to prove their intimate connexion with the peace and the progress of the church of Christ—and whilst our views are most systematically opposed, if not openly, at all events, by private and official influence, by the main supporters of missionary enterprise—the winds of heaven have wafted from the Pacific ocean, tidings from which all parties may gather up the most impressively admonitory lessons. The misdeeds of the French at Tahiti have already been laid before our readers. They can neither be excused nor palliated—but they can be accounted for. A queen dethroned—a flourishing missionary station destroyed—a British consul seized and imprisoned—an interesting people suddenly laid prostrate under the fangs of oppression—England and France placed in a mutual position which may possibly necessitate European war—all this deplorable mischief may be traced up to one cause—the ignorance practically displayed by our missionaries of the principles of religious liberty. They knew not the spirit of their own avowed system—they aimed at a great good by means of what they regarded as a minor evil—they began to develop the establishment principle at Tahiti—they appealed to the civil power for the maintenance of a certain form and order of spiritual institutions—and from that moment their troubles commenced.

The exile of two Roman catholic missionaries from the Society islands, however explained, remains a signal and most melancholy proof, that our best, our most devoted, our most successful ministers in that group, were wholly mistrustful of the inherent energies of divine truth. And it would seem as if He who watches over the interests of His church, not with a view to its welfare for a few years only, but for all time, had resolved, at an early stage of missionary enterprise, to rebuke, with a severity so stern and emphatic, the first decided application of illegitimate means, as to discourage any future resort to them in all time to come. Much as we deplore the events which have befallen Tahiti, we can yet, even now, read their moral, and mingle gratitude with mourning. Let any devout man bear in mind that the church has only recently awakened to her responsibility as to the regeneration of the world—let him reflect that this is but the early dawn of her missionary activities and zeal—let him calculate how an uncorrected mistake in the matter of church and state alliance might lead on to consequences the most disastrous which can be imagined, and result in a universal neglect of the maxim, that Christian truth can only be successfully promulgated and defended by Christian means—let him observe how easily, and how insensibly, that state of habit and feeling might have been generated in newly-planted churches, which, some hundred years hence, would have blighted all the fairest fruits of pious zeal and spiritual enterprise—and surely he will be at no loss to discover, in the bitter tidings which now seem only evil, a sufficient compensating good. Future ages will have to rejoice that in the earliest history of missionary effort, a small deviation from principle brought down upon those who sanctioned it such sudden and overwhelming vengeance. Had nothing disastrous come of the alliance in Tahiti of things secular and things sa-

cred—had the drawing of the sword by the magistrate in defence of the truth, been followed by no perceptible mischief in those islands—had our missionaries been allowed to mistrust their own faith with impunity, and to employ, without harm to themselves, the enginery of physical force, in support of that gospel which breathes peace and love—who can tell whither the desolation would have spread? How many royal heads of churches would the lapse of a few years have produced? How many penal codes would have sprung up in distant quarters to limit freedom of conscience, and to disgrace Christianity? And how soon would that which originated in pious philanthropy have been rendered subservient to political intrigues and worldly ambition?

And, now, we submit, with all becoming respect, to the principal supporters, to the directors, to the secretaries, and to the official agents of missionary societies, whether it behoves not them, of all others, to listen to the solemn admonition with which the late intelligence from Tahiti is fraught? We put it to them, with all solemnity, whether it becomes their position or their cause, to wink at and encourage that ignorance at home, which, when it goes abroad, even with the best intentions, is capable of bringing about such deplorable results? Are they the fitting men to discountenance all direct attempts to enlighten the community, and especially the dissenting portion of it, on the true principles of religious freedom? Can they imagine, for a moment, that the smiles of a few wealthy subscribers, holding establishment opinions, are of more worth to their respective institutions, than a well-grounded knowledge of sound principles? Are they not yet convinced of the evil which accrues from their studied silence on these subjects? With the experience which Tahiti has thrust upon them, have they no intention of abandoning the line of conduct which they have hitherto pursued in reference to all questions affecting the connexion of church and state?

REPEAL OF PENAL ACTS.—THE ACT OF SUPREMACY.

THE bill for repealing a number of obsolete penal acts affecting Roman catholics, and, indirectly, all persons dissenting from the established church, introduced in May last by Lord Beaumont, has received the sanction of government. On Tuesday last, the Lord Chancellor, in moving that the report be brought up, minutely explained the various penal enactments still in force against Roman catholics and dissenters. We presume our readers will have no objection to inspect these monster enactments—worthy of Draco himself—thus suddenly dragged forth, from musty obscurity, into the light of the nineteenth century.

"The first is the act of Uniformity (the 1st of Edward VI.), which declares that a certain form of prayer shall be used in all churches, and that any person who shall attend in any place where any form of prayer is used different from that authorised by the act of parliament, shall, for the first offence, be punished by a heavy fine; for the second offence, with imprisonment for a year; and for the third offence, with imprisonment for life!

"The next instance is the act of Supremacy (1st of Elizabeth, c. 1), which enacts that, if any one in this realm denies the supremacy of the King or Queen in spiritual or ecclesiastical matters—if any one assumes that any other authority or power has any ecclesiastical or spiritual jurisdiction within the kingdom, he is subject to penalties of the severest kind: for the first offence, to the forfeiture of all his goods and chattels, and, if these do not amount to a given sum, to imprisonment for a year; for a second offence, to a *praemunire*—that is to say, not only the forfeiture of all his goods and chattels, but to be imprisoned for life, and to be incapacitated from taking any proceedings in any court of law or justice; and, for the third offence, he is subjected to all the penalties for high treason!

"The third act is that by means of which, we suppose, the poor Lancashire men were recently cast into gaol (1st of Elizabeth, chap. 2, and the 5th of Elizabeth)—compelling every person to go to a protestant place of worship once, at least, in every week, and once on every Sunday. The penalty for the first offence is *praemunire* (see above); for the second offence, the penalty of HIGH TREASON!

"The next act renders every party who is reconciled to the see of Rome, guilty of high treason. Any one who is conscientiously satisfied of the divine origin of the Roman catholic faith, is also to be deemed guilty of high treason, and subject to its penalties. By the same act, any priest who celebrates mass, publicly or privately, is subject to a penalty of 200 marks; and any one who attends such mass is liable to a penalty of 100 marks!

"The next act is that relating to Jesuits (27 of Elizabeth), by which any party, being a Jesuit, and continuing

within these realms for a longer period than so many days, is subject to the penalties of high treason!

"Under the same act, any one who goes abroad to be educated in a foreign college—St Omer's, for example—is to be held guilty of high treason, if he do not return within six months after proclamation is made.

"Another act (35th of Elizabeth) requires all persons to conform to the established religion; and if they do not conform, they are to be held guilty of felony.

"There are other acts (1st, 3rd, and 7th of James I.) against persons educating their sons abroad—against recusancy (or not going to church)—and enforcing certain oaths of allegiance and supremacy. Those who infringe them are liable to the severest penalties.

"Under another act (25th of Charles II.) it is enacted, that any one who becomes a convert to the catholic religion shall not be capable of holding any office or place of profit within these realms; and if he educate his children in that faith, they are also incapable of holding any such place of trust or profit.

"There is also an extraordinary act (passed in the reign of the protestant William and Mary), which enacts that no catholic shall come within ten miles of London, under heavy penalties.

"By another act (passed in the same reign) no catholic is allowed to bear arms, and if he have a horse above the value of £5, it may be seized and disposed of by any justice of the peace!"

This is truly as nice a specimen of the advantages of maintaining a state church, as can be found in the whole compass of history. Most, if not all, of these sanguinary enactments, although long since obsolete, have been enforced, at one time or another, against conscientious dissenters in the name and for the promotion of religion. Barbarous and absolutely absurd, however, as they are, the Bishop of London could not consent to give them up. He, with the greatest propriety, termed them, links of one great chain, which, if rudely broken, would endanger the state church and protestant ascendancy. Links of a great chain they truly have been—a chain that has enthralled and will enthrall the nation, even when these few rusty links are removed. After all, it is scarcely fair to condemn the poor prelate, who is only carrying out to its full extent the principle of a state church, in which the terms of such atrocious statutes as these are still laid up, to be developed or not, in future times, as circumstances permit.

But the Lord Chancellor wishes to preserve "a link" of this great chain. In his speech on Tuesday night, he said:—

I proceed, therefore, to the next act with which we deal—the 1st of Elizabeth, chapter 1. By that act, if any one within this realm denies the supremacy of the King or Queen in spiritual or ecclesiastical matters—if any one assumes that any other authority or power has any ecclesiastical or spiritual jurisdiction within the kingdom, he is subject to penalties of the severest kind:—for the first offence, to the forfeiture of all his goods and chattels, and, if those goods and chattels do not amount to a given sum, to imprisonment for a year; for the second offence, to a *praemunire*—that is to say, not only the forfeiture of all his goods and chattels, but to imprisonment for life, and to be incapacitated from taking any proceeding in any court of law or justice; for the third offence, my lords, he is subject to the penalties for high treason; and what makes this the more extravagant is, that the 31st of George III. and the Roman Catholic Relief act admit, under the form of an oath, the right to hold the spiritual jurisdiction of the pope, because the oath there prescribed only goes to deny the Pope's temporal authority. Thus, your lordships will see, whilst you allow the propriety of swearing one thing, you keep on your statute book this act of pains and penalties against those by whom that very thing is admitted. Why, is not this most extravagant [hear, hear]? What is the course I have taken? You will blame me, my lords, for not going far enough. Instead of repealing the act altogether, we have limited the penalty to that prescribed for the first offence. Surely, that is a sufficient punishment. Surely it is not too much that we have done away in such cases with such penalties as the *praemunire* and the punishment for high treason [hear, hear].

Truly the Lord Chancellor's kindness is melting. Recollect, dissenters, that you are no longer subject to the *praemunire* or punishment of high treason for denying the supremacy of the Queen in spiritual or ecclesiastical matters; your goods and chattels only are to be forfeited, or in default you may suffer one year's imprisonment. It is obvious, that unless this disgraceful enactment were reserved for future use, it would not have been retained. Here is the rod held in *terrorem* over the head of dissenters. Other old statutes may be abolished without difficulty—this must be preserved, so long as the state church exists, it is designed to uphold—a mine to be sprung whenever its assailants are bold enough to attack the citadel. This, we suppose, is the instrument destined to put a legal stop to the Anti-state-church agitation, should it ever become formidable enough to threaten the subversion of the establishment. Any informer, therefore, may be the instrument of enforcing the above penalty against

any person he can prove to have denied in speech or writing the Queen's supremacy in spiritual matters. The Lord Chancellor might well add, in reference to the alteration of this statute—"Is there anything in such a course inconsistent with the principles of the protestant establishment?"

CHURCH RATE AT UXBRIDGE.—The town of Uxbridge has just been agitated by a sharp contest upon the vexatious subject of church rates, being the first contest of that kind ever known in that locality. A church rate having been proposed at the vestry, an amendment was proposed by Mr Henry Hull, and seconded by Mr Wilkinson, which the vicar, Mr Price, in defiance of the customary usage, refused to put to the meeting. Upon a show of hands, the rate having been negatived by at least two to one, a poll was demanded, which took place on Monday and Tuesday last, accompanied by all the circumstances of a parliamentary election under the old borough-mongering system. An adjourned vestry was held on Thursday at the baptist chapel, when it was announced by the vicar that the numbers were—for the rate, 178; against it, 174. Mr Hull denounced the mode by which the rate had been carried, and the calumnious hand-bills which its supporters had issued, more particularly against the society of Friends. Mr Wilkinson stated that, notwithstanding there was a majority of four votes in favour of the rate, there was, in fact, a majority of fourteen voters against it. An anti-church and state association was formed in the town the same evening; and it has been determined to make the illegal proceedings by which the rate has been carried a subject of judicial proceedings.

SEIZURE FOR CHURCH RATES.—FROME.—A seizure for church rates was made last week by Mr Edward Newport, one of the constables of Frome, on the complaint of Mr Edward Palmer, printer, and Mr W. P. Penny, printer, the churchwardens, upon the property of Mr D. Wright, a member of the society of Friends. The constable called on a person to assist him to remove the goods, who observed, when called upon, that "it was such a dirty job that he did not like to have anything to do with it."

The rate-payers of Wakefield, in vestry assembled, refused on Thursday, by a large majority, a church rate for that parish. The church party did not deem it prudent to demand a poll.

ANOTHER PRESBYTERIAN DISRUPTION.—CANADA.—By advices from Canada, details of which are given at full length in our columns devoted to ecclesiastical intelligence, we learn that a most important movement has taken place in the presbyterian synod of Canada, the result of which is, that a large protesting minority have withdrawn from its communion, and formed themselves into a separate body, under the title of "The Presbyterian Church of Canada." We need scarcely say, that the late disruption in the church of Scotland is the main cause of this important movement in Canada. The presbyterian synod in that country has always enjoyed an independent jurisdiction in spiritual matters, but the addition to its title, "in connection with the church of Scotland," identified it with the principles and practice of the parent church. The evangelical portion of the communion became dissatisfied with a constitution which implicated, or tended to implicate, them in the proceedings of a church which had become so degraded as the establishment of Scotland. Accordingly, the question of "connection" has been warmly discussed by the presbyterians of Canada for some time past, and when the synod met in June, the strength of parties was put to the test. Resolutions were proposed by Dr Cooke and Mr Bayne respectively—the former for maintaining the connection with the church of Scotland, and the latter for dissolving it. The synod divided, when Dr Cooke's motion was carried by a majority of 56 against 40. The minority protested, and organised themselves under the title above-mentioned. We observe names in the majority of whom better things might have been expected, and among others, Thomas Liddell, D.D. We congratulate the Free church, however, and evangelical dissenters generally, on the large minority who have proved themselves worthy on this occasion, and earnestly trust that the divine blessing may rest on the important step which they have taken.—*Scottish Herald.*

MOTHER CHURCH INSOLVENT.—At Stockport, the singers of the parish church of St Mary, have absolutely turned out in consequence of the non-payment of their wages. Instead of striking up a tune, they have struck against all tuning whatsoever, at least without payment. The parties have been out seven weeks; there are eight of them in number, and they claim one shilling a week wages, for twelve months, which will make the claim of each individual £2 12s.; or their collective claim £20 10s.—*Manchester Times.*

PERSECUTION IN THE BAHAMAS.—A gentleman, who was for several years a justice of the peace in the West Indies, has written a letter to the *Stirling Observer*, which commences as follows:—

"Recent arrivals from these islands give an account of some alleged strange persecutions against that body of Christians denominated baptists, by the Colonial Church Union of Jamaica, which appears to be well-founded—inasmuch as the writer of this, on his way home, two years ago, from the island of Jamaica, touching at Nassau, New Providence, it was stated to him by one of the baptist clergymen that every discouragement, and even insult, was offered to that sect by the local authorities, so much so that, in one instance, the late Governor (Sir F. C.), on a Sunday, meeting a number of them going to their chapel, called out to them, 'What stupid people you must be not to go to the established

church.' Many other similar instances were also stated, which remind one of the abominable persecutions against the Scottish covenanters in the reign of that unfeeling tyrant, Charles the Second, through the instrumentality of the detestable Lauderdale, though, it must be confessed, of not quite so sanguinary a nature."

After giving an instance of the hatred and persecution of the baptists by the planters, which occurred within his own experience, he concludes:—

"It would be sickening to detail the numerous executions which took place in many parts of Jamaica, in the years 1831-32, under martial law, chiefly amongst those of the baptist sect."

"In making these statements, I may truly say that I have no connexion whatever with the sect of the baptists. I am not sure whether I was ever within any of their places of worship. Honest truth, however, compels me to state that, in my official capacity, in numerous instances, I always found the people of that persuasion most orderly and well-behaved."

Correspondence.

THE AMENDED POOR LAW AND THE RIGHTS OF DISSENTERS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—It can but be a cause of thankfulness to every philanthropic and humane mind that the hardships imposed by the new poor law have been found to be too much even for the callous and selfish hearts of the landed proprietors, and that their House of Commons, their government, have employed themselves in rounding off some of its sharp points to bring it a little nearer in appearance to the form which humanity, not to say Christianity, requires. But, allow me to ask how it is dissenters have exhibited such monstrous apathy on some important questions involved in the debate. According to Sir James Graham, the commissioners have power to direct any board to appoint a paid state-church chaplain, and that, out of 513 unions, 411 have appointed such chaplains, with salaries varying from £40 to £50; so that, on his own statement, we may fairly reckon £20,000 per annum is abstracted from the so-called poor's rate, in order to swell the already overgrown revenues of the established church. Now, simply on this point, shilling, and pence principle, it behoved dissenters to raise a dissentient voice, to have awakened attention, and called for a repeal of the law giving power to lay on these additional taxes for the support of a religious sect; and as the surest way to some men's minds is through the pocket, they would have stood on vantage ground. But there are other considerations than these involved—will not those 411 chaplains infuse into the minds and spirits of both the governors and the governed a spirit of state-churchism, and thereby cause any unfortunate dissenter who may be an inmate to be a marked man? Undoubtedly there will be many noble exceptions, but, looking at the general principles by which human conduct is governed, we must expect this to be the case, especially while the power remains in the hands of the union house authorities, to compel all inmates to attend these religious services.

Again, the district schools to be established will be essentially and *bona fide* church schools. Masters will be churchmen, and church doctrines will be taught. Ought not dissenters to have called for express laws forbidding any child to be taught from any book containing peculiar religious doctrines or sentiments, if the parents objected thereto? Why should the children of dissenters be obliged to learn and repeat the absurdities (to use no stronger term) contained in the church catechism.

Again, should they not have demanded that the religious liberty of inmates should have been placed on a firm and secure basis—that it should have been secured and guaranteed by law, and not by the general rules of commissioners, which they can recall, or alter, or modify at their pleasure—by a law which should have been binding on every master, known to every inmate—a law to which he could make a ready appeal to secure one of the most precious of his rights—"the right of worshipping God according to the dictates of his own conscience?"

What are we to learn from the death-like stillness that dissenters have manifested on these important questions? That they are become careless of the growth of the power of their direct and increasingly-active foe? That they can see chain after chain, manacle after manacle, forged and fastened on their country without concern? That principles are become mere sandbanks, only fit to stand on when the tide has receded, instead of solid rocks on which their standards should be irrevocably fixed, and for which they are bound to contend manfully while a spark of life is left? That they can see, with unconcern, the child of any parent placed in a situation where it is obliged to learn those doctrines that its guardians, appointed by God himself, consider erroneous, and fatally so? That it is of no consequence whether the poor brother is debarred from the house of prayer, where he has, time after time, heard those truths which animated and cheered him under the toils and difficulties of life, debarred from it, too, when he most needs these consolations? It is hard to draw such conclusions, but what is to be said?

Dissenters should remember, too, that they ought not to expect the government, so mixed up and trammelled as it is by the state church, to be in advance of the public; and it, therefore, behoves them to embrace every opportunity of stating their principles, and bringing them before the public mind: it is only by being known that truth can advance. Their silence will inevitably be construed into consent, consequently they are partakers in the guilt of oppression. That they have the power of making themselves heard, and exciting considerable opposition, witness the defeat of Sir James Graham's never-to-be-forgotten education scheme; and note his evident fear of arousing their attention and exertions. Again, mark his words in opposing Mr O'Brien's motion—"The proposed compulsion would but kindle a flame of religious discord throughout the kingdom."

Hoping the above remarks may be useful, in some little degree at least, in rousing and sustaining a more watchful spirit in the camp,

I am, sir, yours, &c.,

Battel, August 2nd, 1844.

HUMANITAS.

DUTY OF CONSCIENTIOUS DISSENTERS AT ELECTIONS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—One point in the late elections at Birmingham and Kilmarnock, requires more notice than I have observed to be taken of it. How did the dissenters vote?

1st. Two men were, in each case before them, well reported of for personal piety (though the cant cannot be too sternly scouted, which calls upon us to elect a compulsory churchman, in preference to an equitable Roman catholic or infidel).

2ndly. Both these men advocated all the reforms in commerce or legislation, which dissenters generally wish for.

3rdly. They both were in favour of separating the church from the state. All who dissent for conscience sake, consider a state church to be our greatest national sin. All who account dissenting principles to be divine and scriptural, must deem a compulsory church the greatest of government abuses, as being a special sin against God.

But 4thly. Both men, confessedly differed from many, perhaps the majority (for argument's sake) of dissenters, in wishing equal political privileges for all men, irrespective of property distinctions.

Ought now dissenters, who believe a compulsory church to be a sin against God, as well as a violation of social rights, to withhold their support from the candidate who would do away, first and especially, this legislative sin against God? They may differ about degrees of political reform, but religious men surely agree that God's claims stand first. To free the nation from a political imperfection, or even to hazard rendering its polity more imperfect, are in a good man's mind of very subordinate consequence, to freeing our country from a sin against God, and rendering our government less offensive to him.

I would ask a dissenting brother who disapproves of "complete suffrage," which do you think will best please God—a nation with a ten pound suffrage, but establishing, and therefore violating Christianity, or a nation with the disadvantage (?) of complete suffrage, but laying no Uzzah-like hands upon his holy ark? Can you hesitate for an answer—then why hesitate to act accordingly?

Churchmen will never believe that dissent is a religious thing; and that we consider establishments not merely degrading and provoking to us, but a sin against God, till they see that we are ready to merge all political differences in getting rid of our greatest national sin.

The writer, though a decided suffragist, would rather vote for a whig or a tory, could such a thing be found, who would abolish a compulsory church, than for a suffragist who would maintain it. A dissenter must be prepared to say to estimable but worldly liberals, at another election, "Gentlemen, we think, with you, that such and such reforms are indeed very, very important; but another reform is the 'one thing needful.' Our legislating for religion is an unpardonable offence against God. We must reconcile him by purging our statute book and our executive from interference with his kingdom. We are sure he will chastise us till this preliminary step is taken; and we must, we are compelled in conscience to express our views at the poll, whether we divide the liberal worldly interest or not. We must do duty and leave events to God. We must vote for truth and obedience to God, and we can wait his time to give the victory to the truth." I am, sir, yours,

Bradford, August 1, 1844.

F. C.

THE "CHRISTIAN WITNESS," AND THE EXPELLED GLASGOW STUDENTS.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—My attention has just been directed to a passage at page 359 of the *Christian Witness* for this month, contained in an article on the expulsion of nine students from the Glasgow Congregational Academy.

I have read the tract issued by the young men, and recommend persons who take an interest in the cultivation of a sincere and faithful independent ministry to read it too, and having done so, then to read the article in the *Christian Witness*, where the sentence to which I wish to direct your readers occurs, and which will be found but little at variance with the principle inculcated throughout the piece.

The students are thus addressed:—

"You are, for the time, required to stand aloof from all public turmoil, all political strife, and all kind of party contest, that you may prosecute your studies in undisturbed repose. With your private judgment committees and tutors may not, must not, interfere; but as a rule, keep them to yourselves, and in no case take any public action upon them. You are not required to surrender a single right as Christians, or as men, but simply for a season to hold the exercise of such rights in abeyance!"

Here is the *righteous expediency* principle of Dr Campbell with a vengeance, enforced as a rule of conduct in the "schools of the prophets." A plain person would ask, how the terms "may not" and "must not" can apply in this connexion? If the students are cunningly to keep their opinions on vital subjects to themselves, it is hardly logical to prohibit the tutors from interfering with such opinions, seeing that, on the editor's hypothesis, they could never be cognizant of them! One party living in, and acting with, dissimulation, the other in ignorance of the principles taking root and maturing in the minds they are cultivating, will never produce a sincere and faithful ministry; while the recommendation of such tactics by the organ of the Congregational Union of England and Wales may help to explain the practices adopted in those seats of learning, as well as the causes by which the congregational churches are brought to the low condition they exhibit at the present time.

In this case, as in most others, the editor of the *Witness* proves too much, and leaves his protégés, the congregational academics, and their respective unions, splitting and sinking on a lee shore.

A NONCONFORMIST.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.—It is now generally thought that the business in the House of Commons will be brought to a close on Thursday next (tomorrow), and that the House will, on that day, adjourn for a short time, to enable the Lords to consider the bills which will be sent up to them. No prorogation, however, will take place until judgment is given in the case of Mr Daniel O'Connell and the other traversers.—*Standard.*

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

Insolvent Debtors bill, against, 24.
In favour of, 2.
Corn laws, against alteration of, 4.
Union with Ireland, for repeal of, 40.
Charitable Bequests (Ireland) bill, against, 202.
Dissenters' Chapels bill, against, 1.
Marriages (Ireland) bill, for alteration of, 1.
Tithe Commission, for dissolution of, 1.
Imprisonment for Debt, for abolition of, 4.
Roman Catholic Penal Acts Repeal bill, against, 1.
Education (Ireland), for extension of, 1.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

Roman Catholic Penal Acts Repeal bill.
Feudal Investiture (Scotland) bill.
Heritable Securities (Scotland) bill.
Lands Clauses Consolidation bill.
Railway Clauses Consolidation bill.

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Insolvent Debtors bill.
Arms (Ireland) bill.
Debtors and Creditors bill.
Transfer of Property bill.
Private Partnerships bill.
Roman Catholic Penal Acts Repeal bill.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Art Unions bill.
Marriages (Ireland) bill.
Charitable Donations and Bequests (Ireland) bill.
Courts of Common Law Process (Ireland) bill.
Insolvent Debtors bill.
Debtors and Creditors bill.
Transfer of Property bill.
Arms (Ireland) bill.

BILLS READ A THIRD TIME.

Spirits (Ireland) bill.
Clerks to Attorneys bill.
Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) bill.
Savings Banks bill.
Fisheries (Ireland) bill.
Merchant Seamen bill.
Art Unions bill.
Marriages (Ireland) bill.
Debtors and Creditors bill.
Arms (Ireland) bill.
Charitable Bequests (Ireland) bill.
Transfer of Property bill.

DEBATES.

Wednesday, July 31st.

CAPTAIN WARNER'S INVENTION.

Lord INGESTRE called attention to Mr Warner's Brighton experiment, which was either a gross imposition, or else demonstrative of the possession of some formidable destructive power, the exclusive possession of which would be of vast importance to this country. He began by relating his first introduction to Captain Warner, to whom his notice was attracted, in 1839 or 1840, by a paragraph in the newspapers; and then he went back to that gentleman's successive communications with government, and the government inquiries into his pretensions; describing him as having encountered, in ridicule and suspicion, the common fate of all great inventors. His projects had obtained the approval of William the Fourth; and Sir Richard Keats, Sir Thomas Hardy, and Lieutenant Webster, had all reported favourably on the powers of his destructive apparatus. Captain Warner performed a successful experiment, similar to the one at Brighton, but on a small scale, at Wanstead, in 1840, in the presence of the Earl of Hardwicke and Admiral Bowles, and a great concourse of people: at the request of Sir Francis Burdett, in 1841, he repeated the experiment, in the presence of Sir Henry Hardinge, Sir George Cockburn, and Sir George Murray: but the negotiations to perform experiments before government commissioners had failed, through the hostile and indiscreet conduct of the commissioners, and the impracticable conditions which they imposed. Lord Ingestre bore testimony to the immense powers of the engines of the inventor: with his invisible shell he could defy the proudest fleet that ever was at sea, and block it up in any harbour or road-way.

It had been too much the fashion to ridicule the importance of the invention, called "the invisible shell;" it had always been said, "We do not want to hear any more about your invisible shell," but let us see your "long range." He (Lord Ingestre) would state what could be done with the invisible shell: one single ship would, by means of it, be able to defend this country against the proudest fleet that ever was at sea [hear, hear]. It would prevent any fleet getting out of any harbour or road-way: he would instance Toulon or Spithead, and any number of ships at anchor there within those ports could be destroyed by a single ship without the possibility of escape [hear, hear]. As to the invisible shells, everybody knew that Brighton was an exposed place. It was very possible, in time of war, for French steamers to come over and bombard the town: it required very little experience to know that, if the steamers approached within a certain distance, many parts of that splendid town might be laid in ashes. If Capt. Warner's invention were resorted to, no steamer could approach the place [hear]. He challenged any man to prove the contrary [cheers and laughter]. It was impossible to avoid the result that, if the French steamers came near Brighton, they would be destroyed [hear, hear, hear]. He felt strongly on this subject; and, notwithstanding all the taunts and ridicule with which he had been assailed, he would state his conviction—his honestly-entertained conviction [cheers]. It had occasioned him a good deal of ill-will among his friends—he would not call it ill-will, but sneers and derision—not so bad as ill-will, but still not very pleasant [laughter]. He had acted from a sense of duty to his country, and with no other object on earth [cheers from all sides].

He concluded by moving for copies of all the correspondence between Captain Warner and the government.

Sir ROBERT PEEL seconded the motion; for he was at length determined that the public should be enabled to judge why Captain Warner had refused to submit to the ordeal proposed by government.

Sir Robert had an opportunity of witnessing an experiment with the "invisible shell" on a small scale at Wanstead; and he had no hesitation in saying that it was a most formidable power. He had no doubt that the vessel was destroyed at Brighton the other day in the same manner. Nevertheless, the invisible shell always appeared to him to be of much less importance than the "long range" which Captain Warner had thus described—

I can project 100 shells of most destructive power, and repeat the experiment with rapidity. In Gibraltar, under the operation of my invention, in two hours there would not be a man alive. I can use it effectually at sea at a range hitherto attained by no battery. By means of my long range I could have demolished Algiers: instead of damaging the place only, as Lord Exmouth did with his fleet, I could have demolished it with a single ship; and after having destroyed Algiers, with comparatively little refitting, I could have in like manner demolished Toulon.

Sir Robert determined that the matter should be investigated, to see how far the thing could be done, and how far this country might be able to retain the secret, either for the purpose of suppressing it altogether or of using it. Sir Robert read letters in which the members of the first commission desired to see experiments of the "long range" performed first, and offered divers facilities for the purpose—among others, cannon and men from the ordnance; but requiring an estimate of the expense.

If he had not laid down that rule as to the expense, there would have been no limit to the demands on the ordnance. Why, that very day he had had applications from four parties, all professing to have instruments at least as destructive as Captain Warner's, and only begging that they might be allowed to try their experiments, and that the government should pay the expense.

Captain Warner replied that he did not want any men for either experiment; but objected to the order proposed, and insisted on trying the invisible shell first: he said that he was quite ready to give an estimate of the probable expense, but that he submitted to the consideration of the commissioners whether the expense might not be avoided, as he had the testimony of the First Lord of the Treasury, the Master-general of the Ordnance, the senior Naval Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Ingestre, and others. Now, for himself, Sir Robert could only say he never saw any experiment by the "long range." What was the use of referring to first lords of the treasury? He had certainly had several interviews with Captain Warner, that he felt he was wholly incapable of forming a judgment; that could only be done by those who were accustomed to witness explosive power. The commissioners answered, very properly, that they were appointed to form an opinion for themselves. Captain Warner also said that he could not proceed unless he were promised £200,000 for the "invisible shell," and £200,000 for the "long range." The commissioners saying that that would close the commission, Captain Warner consented to take any remuneration which the First Lord of the Treasury might promise him beforehand. However, he allowed himself to be examined; and his answers would satisfy the House that the caution on the part of government had not been misplaced.

Captain Warner was first asked how long he had been in satisfying himself of the utility of his long range and invisible shell? He answered, twelve years for the long range, twenty-seven years for the invisible shell. Being asked what experiments he had tried, he answered, that he had sunk two French privateers at the end of the war, one off Folkestone, the other St Valerie bay; that he was in the Nautilus, a cutter hired for the King's service; that it was hired by his father, whose name was William Warner. "Such extraordinary circumstances," the commissioners observed, "were, of course, reported to the Admiralty?" "No; we were not in the employ of the Admiralty." "Who were you hired by?" "Lord Castlereagh, who employed us in landing spies." "Were the circumstances you have mentioned reported to the Secretary of State?" "I do not know." "Were they entered in the log book of the Nautilus?" "No; we did not keep a log book." "Was there no claim made of prize money?" "No." "Were any of the crews of the privateers saved?" "Not a soul was saved." "The crew of the Nautilus was of course aware of these facts?" "There was no one on board the Nautilus but myself and another." The commissioners had sent to the Admiralty to discover whether any communication had ever been made respecting the destruction of two French privateers off Folkestone and in St Valerie bay; but no trace of anything of the kind was to be found. The commissioners then sent to the Foreign office; but it did not appear that there was the slightest record of such a transaction. The crews of these two vessels were therefore sent to destruction without any reward having been claimed for the destruction of the ships to which they belonged, or any record made of the transaction. He hoped the House would observe that the account Captain Warner gave before the commissioners of the "long range" was, that he had tried it before Sir Richard Keats at a place he named; and that, with a two-pounder, he could project his shells to a distance of three miles. Now this was most important. Captain Warner, with a two-pounder, could project this invention three miles with accuracy. From this it would appear that the invention was simply projected with a cannon. When asked how he had tested the power of the "long range," he answered, by trying it on certain islands off Vigo Bay and in Hainault Forest. When asked what objects he had tried on at six miles range, and whether he had demolished any fort at that distance, he answered, he had knocked to pieces the rock in the islands off Vigo Bay to a great extent, and that he had displaced many tons of rock at that range. Now, the government wanted a repetition of that—the destruction of the trees in Hainault forest and the breaking the rocks in the islands off Vigo bay; and the commissioners accordingly said to Captain Warner—"Without disclosing your secret, let us have the long range exhibited at a distance of two or three miles before we go to the invisible shell."

It was important to have this fully investigated; because there were many parties who had secrets of explosive power, but the question always was, could

they be used under difficulties? could they be used with safety to the parties handling them? The experiments before the commission came to an untimely end; and Sir Byam Martin, on enclosing his commission, begged that he might never again be put upon the same employment, and positively declined to have anything more to do with Captain Warner's inventions. Sir Robert then alluded to the appointment of the second commission, of whom Captain Warner required £2,700 as the cost of testing the "long range," and £2,470 for the "invisible shell." The commissioners offered £500, and Captain Warner said that his friends would try to make up the difference; but the deficiency was not made good: and thus terminated the relations between Captain Warner and the present government. In this case government had departed from their ordinary rule: the rule was, that any one proposing a new plan or projectile should have all the experiments tried at his own expense. It was obvious that a neglect of this rule must impose upon the government endless labour, and upon the country indefinite expenditure. As guardians, then, of the public purse, her Majesty's government were bound to forbear from entering into any engagement to pay considerable sums of money for the communication of such a secret as this. They were not prepared to pay £200,000 or £300,000 upon such grounds as Captain Warner had laid before them. In reply to some of the inquiries, Captain Warner said that it would only be necessary to trust one man in each fleet with the secret. But to this it was objected on the part of the government that the persons so intrusted with the secret must each be paid £400,000 in order to guarantee the preservation of the secret; nor was it even certain that that sum would preserve their integrity. To this Captain Warner could give no satisfactory answer. Sir Robert thought he had shown that Captain Warner had not been treated with the least disrespect; that the fullest opportunity had been given to him for displaying the powers of his invisible shell and of his long range; and the fault was his if he had failed to perform that which he had undertaken [cheers].

Mr WILLIAM COWPER vindicated the late ministry's treatment of Captain Warner; and remarked, as a feature of that gentleman's conduct, that he always went to the treasury in the first instance: he always preferred going to those who had the command of money, rather than to men skilled in science.

Sir HOWARD DOUGLAS contradicted a statement in the Times, that the commissioners resigned because they could not agree among themselves—they were perfectly unanimous; and he corroborated Sir Robert Peel's statement, citing extracts from Captain Warner's examination.

Captain Warner was asked whether he could lodge his shells so as to close a roadstead in such a way as that a fleet could neither get in nor get out? He said he could. Then this case was put to him: suppose there were twenty sail in Torbay, and they were three miles from Bury and Newstead, Captain Warner was asked how soon he could destroy them? He answered, in an hour and a half. It was then said, that he must do so by laying lines of his invisible shells: now, his shells might be invisible, but he himself was not so—he could not render himself invisible—he could not approach that fleet in secrecy; they would take the usual precautions—they would have outside cruisers: how could he escape those? The only answer he had to make to that objection was, that he should use cutters, schooners, and boats. On this it was objected, that there might be a strong tideway and a distance of three miles. He then said that he should use steamers. But the noise was urged as a serious consideration. That he sought to obviate by saying that he should use screw-steamers. It was asked, did he think that he could, under such circumstances, face a British fleet? did he suppose that he could face them with schooners and cutters? did he think he could buoy up the passage of the port with his shells without the knowledge of the enemy? He admitted the difficulty was great, but he maintained that he possessed the means of overcoming it.

When the House looked at all the conditions which he insisted on as necessary to the completion of his objects, one could hardly refrain from exclaiming, that his schemes were a renewal of the old plan by which sparrows are to be caught—that of laying salt on their tails. As to chasing vessels, there certainly had been an experiment tried; but after all, it had been very fairly described as a trial upon a punt in a fish-pond—a punt towed by an old horse. And what was the other experiment? It was one certainly tried upon a larger vessel, towed by a steam-tug; and there was a larger dose of the composition; but that was all; the shells went along the tow-line—they could not miss—they went on each side of the bow of the vessel, and it was impossible that she should escape from them.

Sir CHARLES NAPIER confessed that, with Sir Hussey Vivian, he doubted Lord Ingestre's sanity in agitating the subject. He commented on weak points in Mr Warner's case, especially the known existence of powerful but dangerous explosive substances, such as chloride of nitrogen. He read an account of an experiment off Walmer castle in 1806, very like the account of the recent one at Brighton; only that the ship was known to have been destroyed by two large copper vessels filled with 200 pounds of gunpowder, and joined with a rope which crossed the ship's cutwater. How did this former discovery work in practice?

I had just served my time and passed as a lieutenant; and, having nothing better to do, I went as a volunteer on an expedition against the French flotilla under Sir Sidney Smith. We were sent in the most curious collection of boats that were ever known—the Gemini, the Cancer, and every other animal; and we were sent to blow up the French flotilla at Boulogne. We were under the orders of as gallant an officer as ever sailed—Captain Seckem. It was on a November night; we went in five or six boats; our feet were chapped. There

were pegs in the coppers to be thrown; if they dropped out, there was the dread of explosion: our teeth chattered with cold, our hearts quailed with fear lest the pegs should get out. Captain Seckem was determined that we should run close under the enemy; and in getting so close, he ran us ashore—so there was a finish for that night. We went the second night: we saw our own vessels off the harbour, and were going to blow them up by mistake for the enemy; but they cried out lustily, and so we left them alone. We had no cutlasses; we were wholly unarmed; we were to blow up the enemy, or be taken, or get away. After we had changed the boats, the boatswain got frightened, for he saw the peg out. I ordered them to chuck the copper overboard, and overboard it went. There was not one of the enemy touched so far. Captain Seckem dropped down again. When we came alongside the vessel he forgot to cast off; the copper was hoisted, and out came the peg: the copper was then thrown overboard, and it kept up a great noise for some time, to our horror and astonishment. That was the whole history of the thing, after twenty or thirty thousand pounds had been expended, and we were almost blown up ourselves.

Mr Warner always shied off his six mile range, and returned to his invisible shell. "I think that government has given him a fair chance. I will give him another: I will tell him to go to Southsea castle, and I will turn a ship out by the Havant light, and if he can blow a ship up there from the castle, I shall be satisfied."

Mr AGLIONBY contended that the inventions merited further experiment.

Mr BROTHERTON objected to encouraging such inventions, on moral grounds; and contributed his anecdote to disparage the present one.

Captain Warner might have sold his invention to Don Pedro for £500,000; but he would then, as now, have the money down first. During the Portuguese war, there was a battery which gave much trouble, and it was proposed to Captain Warner to destroy it. Captain Warner said he could do it. Opportunities were given to him, and things provided for him; and they went on from day to day and from week to week; but nothing was effected—there was always something wanted. A gentleman acquainted with the whole of the facts, had written to him stating his conviction, that Captain Warner could not effect what he declared he could.

Mr WAKLEY understood Sir Robert Peel to say, that he was prepared to make an offer which should be satisfactory to Mr Warner. [Sir Robert Peel—"Hear, hear!"] He thought that he should have further opportunity; though government had done all that could be expected.

Sir GEORGE COCKBURN could state exactly how the experiment at Brighton had taken place.

He had an officer in a boat close to the two vessels, and the officer distinctly saw the one blown up. A rope, with two buoys attached, was thrown across her cut-water, the vessel then going at the rate of about three knots an hour; these two buoys, by the impetus of the vessel, were forced under water; and the tension of the rope attached to them either struck a hammer, or excited by other means the igniting power, and then the vessel blew up. The officer who had reported to him said he considered that the explosion was the effect of two barrels of gunpowder. The nitrate of silver, and several other explosive materials, would produce the same effect. He trusted that any further improvements would be made at a long range. If Captain Warner could send a missile of that description five or six miles, he would be entitled to any reward that the government could give. He, however, looked on the invisible shells as of no importance whatever.

Lord INGESTRE having briefly replied, the motion for copies of correspondence was agreed to.

Thursday, August 1st.

CHARITABLE BEQUESTS AND DONATIONS IN IRELAND.

Sir J. GRAHAM, in moving the order of the day for going into committee on this bill, gave an explanation of some alterations which he proposed to make:—

Considering the vast amount of Roman catholic bequests in Ireland, it had been felt expedient to appoint, for the Roman catholic section of the board, a secretary of the same persuasion. As the large powers given to the commission might be supposed to imply judicial functions, he should add a proviso that nothing contained in the bill should be construed to limit or affect the jurisdiction of any court of law or equity with reference to the bequests in question. By a defect in clause thirteenth, it failed to secure endowments to the successors of dignitaries and priests in office at the time of the bequest; that defect would be remedied by a verbal alteration. Some objection had been made to the omission of the titles "Bishop" and "Archbishop;" he had demurred, and he still demurred, to the archbishops and bishops of the church of Rome claiming titles as affixed to certain localities and districts in Ireland; but, hoping to conciliate the feelings of those who were deeply interested in this measure—and having no other desire than, as far as was consistent with the maintenance of their principles, to tender that which might be acceptable to their Roman catholic fellow-subjects—the government were anxious to make such tender in the form and in the terms which might be most satisfactory. He, therefore, proposed, in clause thirteenth, to substitute for the words "any person in the said church of any higher rank or order," &c., the words "any archbishop or bishop, or other person in holy orders of the church of Rome," &c.

Mr GRANVILLE VERNON, Lord JOHN RUSSELL, Mr MORE O'FERRALL, the O'CONOR DON, Mr PHILIP HOWARD, Mr SHEIL, and Mr WYSE, expressed their gratification at the proposed amendments; though some still adhered to a minor objection or two—such as the not giving to the Roman catholic bishops the customary titles of their sees. And Mr HOWARD desired an assurance that Roman catholic prelates should be appointed on the commission.

The House having gone into committee on this bill, Mr D. BROWNE insisted that it should be made compulsory on the government to nominate two or more Roman catholic bishops upon the committee for executing the duties marked out by the sixth clause.

Sir R. PEEL assured the House that there would

be every disposition to nominate bishops; but objected to deal with the subject by way of compulsion.

Some slight attempts were made to alter the bill, but decisively defeated; and the clauses down to the nineteenth were agreed to. The CHAIRMAN then reported progress.

Friday, August 2nd.

INSOLVENT DEBTORS BILL.

On the motion for going into committee upon this bill,

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL explained its object to be threefold—the amendment of the law of *cessio bonorum*, the abolition of imprisonment for debts below £20, and the improvement of the machinery of the Bankrupt court. He admitted that this bill would tend to diminish the facility of credit, but he believed that such facility was rather a disadvantage than a benefit; and argued that tradesmen would probably be more careful whom they trusted when they found themselves precluded from imprisoning their debtors. Against any disadvantage, however, which could be produced by the abolition of imprisonment, he set the useless sufferings of miserable prisoners, unable to meet the demands for which they were detained.

Mr MARK PHILIPS, Mr WORTLEY, Mr AGLIONBY, and Mr SPOONER, deprecated hasty legislation on a measure affecting so many interests. It was objected, that the abolition of imprisonment for small debts would destroy credit, and would especially injure those poor artisans whose wages are earned only during a season.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM defended the bill, urged its necessity, and pointed to the horrors of imprisonment for small sums.

The House having gone into committee, considerable discussion arose on the various clauses. The opposition to the measure was ultimately mitigated by the intimation of Sir James Graham of his intention to add clauses granting compensation, &c., which will meet the objections urged against it. On this the bill went through committee.

Monday, August 5th.

REPEAL OF PENAL ACTS.

Soon after the meeting of the House, at twelve o'clock,

Sir R. PEEL moved the second reading of the bill sent down from the House of Lords to repeal the obsolete penal acts against the Roman catholics. No security provided by the act of 1829 was touched by this measure, the effect of which was to place all Roman catholics, taking the Roman catholic oath, on the same footing with protestants in respect of franchises and civil rights, and to repeal some acts which had become a dead letter. One of these made it a crime to maintain the spiritual supremacy of the pope; another made it punishable to neglect attendance at divine service on the 6th of November; and another prohibited a Roman catholic from having a horse worth more than £5. Really, in repealing such laws the legislature was not so much conferring a favour on the catholics as relieving its own statute-book from a disgrace. So far from being bulwarks to the church, these laws were outworks which might be used by reason and ridicule against her. The establishment in these days must be maintained, not by defences of that kind, but by sound argument and the affectionate attachment of the people.

Mr HAWES asked whether it was intended also to repeal the obsolete laws affecting protestant dissenters?

Sir R. PEEL, without pledging himself on a subject not then before the House, was ready to declare that if there were any law imposing heavy penalties on dissenters for absenting themselves from divine service on account of conscientious objections, he would support the repeal of that law.

IRISH CHARITABLE DONATIONS BILL.

On the order of the day for the third reading of this bill,

Mr D. BROWNE expressed a hope that it would be postponed. The Roman catholic hierarchy of Ireland were opposed to it, and Mr Wyse's approval of it was no reason why it should pass, for that gentleman did not possess the confidence of the Roman catholic clergy. He believed it, indeed, to have been proposed in a spirit of conciliation; but still that was not, with him, a sufficient inducement to support it. He moved that it should be read a third time this day six months.

This amendment found no seconder.

Mr M. J. O'CONNELL said that, after the best consideration, he had felt it his duty to abstain from joining the opposition to this bill. He liked its spirit, which he thought of more importance than its words. It had no compulsory operation; and it effected a great good, by raising the worldly condition of the Roman catholic clergy without diminishing their influence over their flocks.

The bill was read a third time, and passed.

INSOLVENT DEBTORS BILL.

In committee on this bill,

Mr M. PHILIPS objected to the clause abolishing imprisonment for debts below £20. It would prevent a poor man from obtaining credit.

Sir J. GRAHAM said, that the bill had been so framed as to give to the creditor every facility of proceeding against the goods of the debtor. But as the abolition of imprisonment was the very essence of the measure, he thought it would be best to postpone this clause now, and take the discussion of it upon the third reading.

The committee then proceeded with the remaining clauses.

The House adjourned, after some other business, to 5 o'clock in the afternoon, when Mr GLADSTONE

obtained leave to introduce several bills, for the purpose of their being printed and circulated during the recess. Most of them were consolidation bills: the last was for amending the laws relating to the relief and support of merchant seamen, their widows, and children.

At 7 o'clock the House adjourned.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE SAVINGS BANK BILL having been read a third time, on Thursday, Mr Hume proposed a clause, enacting that, after the 20th November, 1844, the deposits of one depositor shall not exceed £20 in any one year; also a clause, that when investments amount to £130, interest shall cease: his object was to confine the provisions of the Savings Bank act to those small depositors for whose benefit it was originally intended. The clauses were negatived without a division, and the bill passed. On Friday, Mr Hume moved that the House would, in the next session, take into consideration a series of resolutions, placed by him on the notice book, "respecting the savings banks of the United Kingdom." He stated his object to be merely the placing of those resolutions upon record, and would forbear from making a speech. Mr Goulburn, advertent to the length of the resolutions (which occupied seven folio pages), expressed a jocular doubt how far it was convenient for hon. members to print their pamphlets at the public expense. The motion was negatived.

THE MARRIAGES (Ireland) BILL was considered in committee by the Commons, on Thursday. In answer to Colonel Rawdon, Sir James Graham said, that the bill would in every respect assimilate the Irish law relating to marriages with the English law. Lord J. Russell condemned the delay which had taken place in bringing this measure before the House. The consequence of introducing bills so late in the session was, to make the House of Commons the mere registrars of the edicts of the House of Lords. The bill then went through committee. All the clauses were agreed to, with some verbal amendments.

PERSECUTION IN THE BAHAMAS.—Mr V. Smith, on Thursday, put a question on the subject of the treatment which a baptist missionary, named Fowler, had received in one of the Bahama islands. It had been stated that a clergyman, named Davies, had thought proper to disturb the congregation of this baptist missionary, and had caused his followers to be brought before a magistrate, who had committed them to prison. He wished to know if the government had taken any steps to investigate the matter? Mr G. H. Hope said that as yet no official accounts had been received from the colony on the subject.

POST OFFICE COMMITTEE.—On Monday evening, Lord Sandon brought up the report of the committee of secrecy on the Post office. It was laid upon the table.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, August 1st.

TAHITI.

Lord ABERDEEN, in answer to the Marquis of Clanricarde, gave some explanations of the late outrage by the French in Tahiti, which he described as being of so flagrant a character as to be almost incredible.

But I wish to state, that this proceeding has taken place, not only without the possible knowledge, or instruction, or participation of the French government, but under a state of things which has been disavowed by them [hear, hear]. It will be recollected that, in the month of September last, the French authorities in the island of Tahiti dethroned the queen, and took absolute possession of, and exercised the full rights of sovereignty over, that island. As soon as a representation on the subject was made by this country, the proceeding was promptly disavowed by the French government, just about the time that the present transaction took place, in the month of March last. But during the intervening months, it is clear that a state of things existed that would account for certain acts which it would be impossible to anticipate under another and a different state of things. Now, the gentleman to whom the noble marquis has referred—at the time when the French took actual possession of the island, and proceeded to exercise all the rights of sovereignty—that gentleman immediately hauled down his flag, and gave an official intimation or notice to the authorities that he was no longer her Britannic Majesty's consul there; that the Queen having been dethroned he had no longer any official character. So that, in point of fact, however unjust the proceedings might be which placed him under the necessity of abandoning his situation, he was not, at the time when the recent transactions occurred, occupying any, and was not recognised as occupying any, official situation. Now, although the power which has been exercised, and the arbitrary and unprecedented proceedings which have taken place, could not be justified against any British subject, having an official character or not, still the circumstances under which the transaction took place must make some difference in the manner in which it is to be received. I said before, that this proceeding had taken place without the slightest knowledge or encouragement of the French government; and I have no doubt that they will regard it with as much concern as we do [hear, hear]. I am afraid, however, that the late transaction will prove a godsend to the enemies of peace between the two countries, and I have no doubt that it will be turned to a good account in furthering their views; but I trust, and have every reason to believe, that, by the exercise of a spirit of justice and moderation, it will lead to no serious consequences [hear, hear]. I have every reason to believe that the French government will disapprove of such a transaction; and I must say, that not a moment was lost in making such representations to that government as appeared to me to be suitable to the circumstances of the case [cheers].

The Earl of Minto said that nothing could be more satisfactory than Lord Aberdeen's assurance; but he endeavoured to extract some further infor-

mation as to the means which had been taken by government to provide against the occurrence, especially as to the naval arrangements. The Earl of HADDINGTON explained how the Vindictive, whose time of foreign service had expired, had successively been replaced by the Dublin, a large fifty-gun ship, and the Talbot or Carysfort. He thought that there was present, in March, a frigate of a minor cast—some ship larger than the Basilisk ketch.

Lord KINNAIRD censured the government for having permitted the French to assume the "protectorate" at all—at least there should have been a joint protectorate by France and England. And had not Queen Pomare been restored? If so, Mr Pritchard must have resumed his official character. The Earl of ABERDEEN believed that Queen Pomare would be restored about the present time, but not sooner. Lord Kinnaird should know that the protectorate of those islands had twice or thrice been offered to England, but invariably refused.

In answer to Lord Minto, Lord ABERDEEN added, that Admiral Dupetit Thouars had been recalled in March last, in consequence of his assumption of the sovereignty of the island; and had been succeeded by Admiral Hamelin.

LAW COURTS (IRELAND) BILL.

Lord WHARNCIFFE having moved the third reading of the bill for regulating certain points relating to the Irish Law Courts, was met by

The LORD CHANCELLOR, who had an objection to urge: that the bill recognised the continuance of a difference in practice between the law-customs of England and Ireland. He showed that the appointments contemplated by the bill had been of old, and until recent times, vested in the judges, and he cited Lord Coke as his authority; he also showed that—for some reason—by the 1st of George the Fourth, the appointments were taken from the judges and given to the Lord Lieutenant. Two years since, in a measure proposed for remodeling offices in the Irish courts of law, a clause was inserted assimilating the practice to that in the English courts: restoring the appointment to the judges: in the present bill however that principle was proposed to be reversed, and the distinction between English and Irish law, in this respect, was to be recognised and continued. On which subject the Chancellor grew warm, and increased in energy as the House cheered.

Why, then, was Ireland to be put on a different footing [cheers from peers on the opposition benches]? Were they not continually saying that they would administer the same law and the same justice to Ireland where they could be applied [cheers from peers on the opposition benches]? If, then, they laid that down as a principle of legislation, the moment they made an exception to it, they reflected upon the parties against whom the exception was made [hear, hear, hear]. If they did not give to the judges in Ireland that which the judges in England had, they said that the Irish judges were undeserving of exercising that authority—that they would be likely to abuse it—and they drew a distinction between the judges in England and the judges in Ireland, who so well performed their duties, and who were utterly undeserving of any reflection being cast upon them [hear, hear]. In his opinion nothing could be more unwise, nothing could be more impolitic in the present state of Ireland than this, and he might also add, nothing could be more prejudicial to the interests of the empire [cheers from peers on the opposition benches]. He proposed, then, that the clause be struck out [cheers from peers on opposition benches].

Lord Campbell coinciding with the speech and motion of the Chancellor, seconded the proposition, which would have been instantly carried had not Lord Wharncliffe, to avoid a defeat, induced the Lord Chancellor to await the issue of a consultation which he proposes to hold with the "law officers of the Crown."

Friday, August 2nd.

Lord BROUGHAM presented a petition from Vice-admiral the Earl of Dundonald, alluding to Captain Warner's invention, and stating that, years ago, the Earl had invented a plan for destroying hostile fleets and batteries, doing more destruction in a few weeks than £100,000,000 expended in war had ever done; that a commission had reported his plan to be efficient; but that at the request of the Prince Regent, and hoping that forbearance from war would continue, he had refrained from making known his invention.

The Earl of ABERDEEN, in answer to questions from Lord Beaumont and the Earl of Minto, stated that he had made strong representations to their respective governments of the conduct of the consuls at Tunis, in the affair of the Maltese executed for murder. He had, however, made no demand for reparation, because no reparation could be made, seeing the man had suffered the extreme penalty of the law. The French government had justified its consul, considering that he had acted rightly in asserting those privileges claimed by Christian powers. The other governments of Europe had expressed more or less disapprobation, and Sardinia and Sweden had recalled their respective representatives.

The Railways bill had been read a third time, the Bishop of London proposed an amendment expunging Mr Thornley's amendment, which compelled railway companies to run third class trains every day on which passengers are conveyed, not excluding Sunday. He intimated that he had no wish to place any restraint on whatever facilities existed for traveling on Sunday; but he thought it both novel and objectionable for the legislature to enforce Sunday traveling. These third class trains would travel too slowly for those who wished to avail themselves of them for short pleasure excursions, while the additional labour thrown on the railways would interfere with those exertions which had been and were making to enable the servants of the companies to attend divine service. Lord Brougham and others

opposed the Bishop's change; but, at the suggestion of the Duke of Wellington, who thought there was some "mistake," the debate was adjourned.

On the third reading of the Unlawful Oaths (Ireland) bill, the Marquis of CLANRICARDE at once turned the debate on the general state of Ireland, social and political, with all the old topics—the want of an extended franchise, the poor law, the dismissal of the repeal magistrates, Mr O'Driscoll, &c.; charging ministers with having done nothing beneficial. Lord Wharncliffe pointed to what had been done for education and for the voluntary endowment of the clergy, as good deeds; and, alluding to the continued labours of the landlord and tenant commission, "hoped next session to be able to produce something worthy of the consideration of parliament." Lord Monteagle acknowledged what had been done, heartily applauding the Charitable Bequests bill; but urged the necessity of an occupation clause to make a good franchise for Ireland, and of dealing generously with Maynooth. The Earl of Wicklow defended government; and Lord Campbell sneered at the conduct of the state trials. After which, the undebated bill before the House was passed.

Monday, August 5th.

The Earl of RADNOR complained of the meagreness of the report of the select committee on the system of opening letters at the General Post office, and asked if the government contemplated any measure on the subject. The Duke of WELLINGTON replied in the negative; and the Earl of RADNOR intimated that he would himself introduce a bill to amend the present law, by more distinctly prohibiting the opening of letters not directly affecting the safety of her Majesty or the state.

The Marquis of NORMANBY complained of the haste with which the Metropolitan Buildings bill had been passed through the legislature, and gave notice, for to-day, of a motion for the return of the number of days on which the House had sat during the session, with the dates when bills were brought up from the Commons, and the intervals of their respective stages.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE, in presenting a petition from leaseholders of church property in Nottinghamshire, censured the conduct of the ecclesiastical commission, in refusing the renewal of leases, and intimated his intention of moving for a searching inquiry into the subject during next session. The Bishop of LONDON defended the commission, which was acting on what was its duty, that of rendering church property available, to its full and fair value, for the purpose of extending the means of the establishment in providing for the spiritual destitution of the population. The Duke of RICHMOND considered that the commission was the worst possible body that could be constituted for managing church property, and hoped that inquiry would be made into its proceedings. After some further conversation, the matter dropped.

The adjourned debate on the Railways bill was resumed by Lord Wharncliffe, who proposed a compromise, in the shape of a clause requiring that when first and second class trains are run on Sundays, they shall be accompanied by third-class carriages, at least once each way. Considerable discussion arose, but ultimately this clause was carried, and, thus qualified, the Bishop of London's amendment was adopted. The bill was then passed, subject to the adoption of the amendments by the Commons.

STATE OF THE NAVY.

The Earl of MINTO called attention to the present state of our naval establishment, which, he contended, was wholly insufficient, looking to the present posture of public affairs, and the possibility of the peace of the world being disturbed. We had but nine ships of the line in commission; the Mediterranean fleet consisted of only one, and we had but two to protect the coast of England should any emergency arise; and if war were to occur, there was nothing to prevent an enemy from sweeping the Channel and the West Indies. The noble earl also adverted to the recent occurrences at Tahiti, blaming the government for leaving our interests neglected and unprotected in that part of the world. He moved for a return exhibiting our actual naval force.

The Earl of HADDINGTON censured the Earl of Minto with making an inconvenient speech, without having a parliamentary case to justify it. This country had overwhelming means of defence available, should war arise; though our present number of ships of the line in commission was small, they were well manned; and our dockyards were busily occupied in the building of additional vessels, and in adding to the strength of our steam marine. He alleged that the government had done its duty in watching British interests on the Pacific, but he abstained from present comment on the recent occurrences at Tahiti.

The Duke of WELLINGTON had been in the habit of censuring the late government for attempting to sustain a state of actual warfare by the aid of a peace establishment. At present British interests were in no danger from the want of adequate means of protection in any part of the world; those who had been guilty of the recent eccentricities in the Pacific were responsible for their conduct, which he left to be inferred was the subject of a negotiation.

The Marquis of Clanricarde and the Earl of Hardwicke having addressed the House, the Earl of Minto made some observations in reply, and then his motion was negatived.

Lord WHARNCIFFE, in moving the commitment of the Poor-law Amendment bill, stated its nature, pointing out in what respects it effected improvements in the existing law, mitigating it where experience had shown that it was too stringent, as in

bastardy, apprenticeship, settlement, night asylums for the casually houseless, &c. The Duke of Richmond, Earls Fortescue and Hardwicke, Lords Littleton and Stradbroke, the Earl of Radnor, the Marquis of Clanricarde, and Lord Campbell took part in the discussion, after which the bill went into a committee *pro forma*, and the House adjourned.

General News.

FOREIGN.

FRANCE.

The *fêtes*, in celebration of the revolution of 1830, closed on Monday. There was no political uneasiness. The *fêtes* were of unusual brilliancy; the weather was propitious; and everything would have passed off well, but for an accident which happened in the Place Louis Quinze, just after the fireworks, from the enormous pressure of the crowd. About a dozen people were trodden under foot, one of whom was killed on the spot, and several others were carried severely wounded to the hospital. The prizes awarded to the exhibitors in the exposition of national industry were distributed on Monday, at the Tuileries, by the King in person. The number of prizes awarded was six hundred; one hundred gold medals, two hundred silver medals, and three hundred bronze medals. Some of the most meritorious and distinguished exhibitors were made chevaliers of the legion of honour. The ceremony lasted five hours, during the whole of which time his Majesty continued standing. He afterwards entertained two hundred of the exhibitors at dinner in the great gallery of Louvre.

The Duc de Bordeaux, in consequence of the death of the Duc d'Angoulême, has addressed a protest to the European courts, declaring that he will not renounce his claims to the French crown, but that he only wishes to exercise his rights "when Providence, to his conviction, shall summon him to be really useful to France;" meanwhile living as Comte de Chambord.

It is worth observation, as illustrative of what is to be hoped from French honour and justice, in this Tahiti affair, that the *Journal des Debats*, which professes to take its account from the article in the *Times*, of Tuesday, suppresses entirely the signature "A British Officer;" and, instead of the following important sentence—"Bearing her Majesty's commission, and enclosing you my name and rank, I pledge you, that which is most sacred to a British officer—his honour—to each fact I assert,"—the French editor only gives, "I assure you, on my honour, of the exactness of what you will read." The French journals, also suppress, with the same dishonourable audacity, eight articles, out of fourteen, of the declaration of the state of siege. The *Debats*, and, indeed, all the Paris papers, assume that there is no doubt that Mr Pritchard was guilty of exciting the natives to rebellion against their French masters. That they take as a *fait constaté*; and the *Debats* especially is anxious to reduce the whole question to that fact alone.

The correspondent of the *Chronicle* writes—"The ministry is much embarrassed by the turn affairs have taken in Tahiti, and their embarrassment is not a little increased by the universal support given by the Paris press, and even by the usual supporters of the government, to the extraordinary conduct of Captains Bruat and d'Aubigny. There is no doubt, however, that the cabinet does not, and cannot, approve of what has been done, and especially of the conduct of Captain d'Aubigny, who has acted with the most unjustifiable violence against a man who, if even all that is alleged of his enmity were true, had no force to carry out such plans against the French authorities."

Admiral Hamelin, who is to succeed M. Dupetit Thouars in the command of the French station in the Pacific, has sailed from Rochefort, in the frigate *Virginie*.

Affairs with Morocco have become very serious. The Emperor has refused to accept the mediation of Great Britain, or to receive Mr Drummond Hay, and has retired into the interior. The *Moniteur* says:—

"The Emperor admits the aggressions committed on our territory, promises to punish the Caids guilty of them, and demands the recall of Marshal Bugeaud, because of his occupation of Ouchda. He enters into no explanation whatever respecting Abd-el-Kader. On receipt of that letter, and of despatches from Marshal Bugeaud, stating that the war continued *de facto* on our frontier of Algeria, his royal highness the Prince de Joinville repaired, on the 23rd of July, in the *Pluton* to Tangier. The Prince sent for and kept on board the consul-general of the King at Tangier, with his family, and a certain number of our countrymen. His Royal Highness then despatched the steamer *Veloce* along the western coast of Morocco, as far as Mogador, to take on board our consular agents and countrymen. On the 23rd, M. de Nion addressed to the Emperor a new letter, demanding a precise and definitive answer, and allowing the delay of eight days previous to the commencement of hostilities. The Prince de Joinville, accompanied by M. de Nion, returned to Cadix to await the expiration of that delay. On the side of our land frontier the Caïd of Ouchda, El Gennaoui, had been superseded in his command, and loaded with irons; and Sidi-Hammida-Ben-Ali, his successor, had made overtures to Marshal Bugeaud of a pacific nature. The Marshal replied that he desired the maintenance of peace, but on the terms stipulated by the government of the King. The Emperor had left Morocco for the northern provinces of his empire, without himself receiving Mr Drummond Hay, consul-general of England, who proceeded on his journey with the intention of overtaking him."

The Prince de Joinville will, consequently, have long ere this commenced operations against Tangier; indeed, it is said, that a despatch had been received

in Paris announcing that he had already begun the bombardment of Tangier.

The *Courrier Français* states, that several English families, alarmed, no doubt, by the rumours of war, had applied for passports to the British embassy in order to quit France.

The Paris papers of Friday are filled with comments on the recent extraordinary proceedings in Tahiti—proceedings which appear to have created as great a sensation in France as in this country. The papers of all shades of opinion concur in supporting the conduct of the French authorities, and declare that their treatment of Mr Pritchard was what he richly deserved. Even the *Journal des Débats*, generally so exceedingly calm and moderate in its views and language, would seem carried away with its contemporaries of every shade of political opinion.

SPAIN.

Accounts from Madrid of the 26th of July give a description of a pretended discovery made in Madrid by the government, the object of which was to set fire to the soldiers' barracks, and assassinate the officers. Numerous arrests and imprisonments had consequently taken place. Narvaez seems to be proceeding in a course of frantic tyranny that cannot last long. Forty persons have been imprisoned, and almost all of them are of the better classes, being principally proprietors and officers in the army. Among them are two colonels, a lieutenant-colonel, and several captains and lieutenants. It appears from the *Comercio*, that the whole are to be handed over to the tender mercies of a military commission.

PRUSSIA.

An attempt has also been made to assassinate Frederick William King of Prussia. The particulars are thus given by a correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle* :—

His Majesty had, at nine o'clock this morning (July 26), taken his seat in his carriage, at the main entrance of the Schloss, or grand palace here, and was about to start with his royal consort for Silesia, and from thence to the baths of Ischyl and Vienna, when one of the few persons present advanced, drew forth a double-barreled pistol, and discharged both barrels, in rapid succession, at the King. Both balls grazed the stomach; but were most providentially turned aside by the folds of his Majesty's traveling cloak and sword belt. The first of the balls passed through the carriage window, and must have killed the Queen, were it not that the latter was at the instant engaged reading a petition, and consequently in a bent posture, which had been presented to her a moment before by a poor woman (said to have been the assassin's daughter). The presenting of petitions on such occasions is strictly forbidden; but in the present case it has been the means of preserving the life of one of the most amiable women that ever graced a throne. The assassin was immediately seized by a shoemaker, of the name of Rheinhardt, who happened to be standing near, and turned out to be a person of the name of Onetsch, formerly burgo-master of the neighbouring town of Storekow, removed from his office for alleged misconduct, and who had sent in numerous petitions to be reinstated, but without success. A few days since, it is said, he excited the high displeasure of the King, during an interview with the monarch at Potsdam, and is said to have vowed vengeance on that occasion. The act was one of mere individual malice, and does not appear to have had the slightest connexion with politics.

When the inhabitants of Beaufort were informed of the King's providential escape, they assembled in crowds to welcome him. The *Prussian Gazette* publishes in its official facts two addresses to the King. The concluding words of his Majesty's answer were—"Nothing can shake my confidence in my people, and least of all such an attempt. My relation to my people remains as before. I lay my head on my pillow without apprehension of any individual."

SWEDEN.

The following is a translation of the principal portion of King Oscar's speech on opening the Diet, July 20, 1844 :—

"In summoning you, gentlemen, to this extraordinary Diet, I have been prompted by my earnest desire to see you assembled at a period so interesting for me and for the country, rather than by the hope of preparing, in a space of time so brief, and of submitting to you the important measures which are the objects of my solicitude, and regarding which I wish to learn your opinions and resolves.

"Besides, the great social questions which the last Diet has bequeathed to you will give you serious occupation, and command your particular attention. I hope, however, to be able during the present session to present to you several propositions for measures of high interest; and in the first place the plan of a new criminal code, conformable with the ideas of our age, as well as with the efforts made for reconciling the severity necessary in the application of punishment with the respect due to the dignity of man.

"Appreciating the importance and the necessity of simplifying our domestic administration, and of completing our system of defence, I will devote my uninterrupted attention to those vital questions. In order that I may be supported in these labours by your enlightened concurrence, I intend soon to assemble you again in a new extraordinary Diet.

"It is with much satisfaction that I feel myself able to communicate to you the sentiments of interest and of friendship which, since my accession to the throne, have been expressed by all foreign powers. I am happy in having this opportunity of testifying my gratitude.

"The relations of the united countries with one of the states of the northern coast of Africa have heretofore subjected us to the payment of an annual tribute, burdensome to our commerce, and incompatible with our dignity. I have firmly resolved no longer to submit to it, since all the other powers of Europe are exempt from it, with the exception of one only. In concert with that power negotiations have been commenced, and I have reason to hope that they will be brought to an amicable conclusion.

"The patriotic sentiments which animate you, gentle-

men, will guide your deliberations, and facilitate your labours. I pray the Almighty to bless you, and I offer you every assurance of my royal good-will."

GREECE.

Papers and letters from Athens mention the attempted attack of an assassin on King Otho, on Sunday, the 7th of July. The *Morning Chronicle* has it thus :—

"This singular accident occurred in the forenoon, about ten o'clock. A man in the uniform of the gendarmie rushed suddenly past the sentinel at the front of the palace, towards the garden, with a large paper petition in his hand, which he began to wave, shouting at the same time, 'Long live Alexander the Great!' The sentinel called to him to stop, and pursued him as he approached the private door of the palace, as all access to the interior by this side is prohibited. The second sentinel, seeing what was going on, placed himself before the door, and presented his bayonet, calling to the gendarme to stand. The unfortunate man then drew his sword, and, getting past the soldier, rushed to the corridor; when the sentinel, finding it impossible to stop him otherwise, transfixed him with his bayonet; and he fell, severely wounded, before the apartments of Miss Wiesenthau, one of the Queen's maids of honour, who, hearing the noise, opened her door, and was witness of the affair. The alarm was given, and the King's physician, Dr Roezer, having examined and dressed the wound, the man was conveyed to the hospital, where he is doing well, though the bayonet had gone through his body."

It appears that the man was a serjeant of the gendarmes; that he had long wished to retire on account of bad health, but awaited the settlement of some claim which he thought he had on the government for money, and meanwhile he had gone mad. His name is Emanuel, and he is a native of Asia Minor. He is about six feet high, of a prepossessing appearance, and served the whole of the revolutionary war, though not yet more than forty years of age.

CHINA.

The news from China comes down to the 26th April. The native authorities, it is said, were disposed to act with perfect good faith towards the British; and it is even reported that the Emperor was about to make arrangements whereby the trade in opium would be legalised. Sir Henry Pottinger had passed several enactments regulating the mode in which British trade is to be carried on. A cargo of tea from the northern ports had been despatched in the *Nautilus*, Captain Gibson; its weight was 246,626 lbs.

There had been more riots at Canton, on the 11th March :—

"Some Manila seamen," says the *Canton Free Press*, "belonging to a Swedish ship at anchor at Whampoa, had some quarrel with the Chinese, who began to pelt them with stones; upon which the Manila men charged the mob, and it is said stabbed a Chinese. The mob, however, after having been dispersed in the first instance, soon returned, and threw stones at the seamen in the company's garden; and the latter had to take to their boats. As usual in such cases, the mob then assembled in front of the factories in considerable numbers, and some apprehensions were entertained that they might proceed to violence; but a detachment of police and soldiers was sent by the authorities from the city, and the mob was dispersed soon after dark, without having done any damage."

Mr J. F. Davis, the new governor of Hong-kong, arrived at Singapore on the 27th April, and sailed again for Hong-kong on the 31st.

A disastrous result had attended an expedition to Borneo. Two vessels, the *Young Queen* and *Anna*, fitted out by the Honourable James Erskine Murray and Mr W. C. Bowra, had entered one of the rivers, and endeavoured to establish commercial relations. They were allowed to proceed up to Cotee river for a considerable distance; when all their advances were rejected, and they were assailed and fired upon by multitudes. They attempted to get back, but were met by a fleet of boats; and a conflict ensued, in which Mr Murray and two sailors lost their lives. It is thought that Sir Thomas Cochrane would have to order some ships of war to go there to demand satisfaction. [Mr Murray was uncle to the present Lord Elibank; an advocate at the Edinburgh bar; author of a book describing a pedestrian tour in the Pyrenees; but most popularly known, perhaps, as a promoter of the anti-corn-law agitation.—*Spectator*.]

TAHITI.

The directors of the London Missionary Society have issued a circular to their subscribers and friends, putting them in possession of the latest information from Tahiti, as contained in the following extracts from letters relating to the oppressive and unwarrantable conduct of the French authorities in that island :—

FROM THE REV. G. BARFF, DATED PAPEETE (TAHITI), MARCH 22, 1844.

"Having heard of the distracted state of Tahiti, I came up with Captain Park, of the *Favourite*, to see and sympathise with our esteemed brethren in Tahiti. I arrived yesterday, just at the time when the brethren were assembled to deliberate upon the best means of preventing bloodshed, and preserving peace, until a final answer comes from England. The particulars of the above-mentioned deliberations will be communicated to you as soon as possible.

"Tahiti is now considered in a state of siege. I was obliged to go to the French governor in person, to get a permit to sleep on shore. About four thousand natives under arms have assembled at Hidiia. The French have a thirty-gun ship, and two hundred soldiers at the Isthmus, to cut off the communication between Tahiti and the Peninsula. Hitherto the natives have retired before the French troops, and no blood has been shed; and the missionaries have gone to-day to Hidiia, to exhort the natives to peace, without, however, sanctioning what the French are doing.

"What gave rise to the present commotion was this :—

Three chiefs were sent for by the French governor, to be put in confinement during his pleasure, for having read a letter sent to them by Pomare; but their people refused to give them up, and have since retired with them to Hidiia. Mr Pritchard was suddenly arrested before I arrived, or, as the proclamation expressed it, 'put under reprisal for the good conduct of the natives.' He is on his way to Valparaiso in an English steamer. The captain of the steamer demanded him as a British consul.

"Unless some equitable arrangement between England and France prevent it, the Leeward islands also will be shortly occupied. The French flag was hoisted at Moorea on the 20th and 21st of this month."

FROM THE REV. R. THOMSON, DATED TAHITI, MARCH 25, 1844.

"I embrace the opportunity of the return of an English whaler to inform you of the present unhappy position of the poor Tahitians. You are aware of the arrest and consequent removal of Mr Pritchard from Tahiti. The natives fled from Papeete in every direction, but soon returned, and things are quiet now in that direction.

"On the other side of the island, war, I regret to say, has broken out. Blood has been spilt upon both sides. The cause of this unhappy affair has been the severe and intolerant measures of the French authorities towards the chiefs of Tahiti. Four chiefs, in and about Papea, were required to come and submit to the governor: this they refused to do. The steam-frigate went round to compel obedience; the chiefs and people retired to Taravao (the isthmus which connects Tairarua with Tahiti). There they were joined by numbers from Tairarua. The French pursued them to Taravao, and the people quietly retired to Taaoe, on the east coast of Tahiti.

"The French have been building a battery upon Taravao. I went there last Friday week, hoping to meet Mr Johnston, and take him down to Hidiia, to attend the quarterly meeting. A soldier took me before the commander, who required of me my business. I told him, and he replied, 'I shall not allow him (Mr J.) to pass.' Presently he said, 'I shall write to the captain of the frigate, lying at the other side of the Isthmus, and consult with him as to whether I may allow him to pass or not. I had to remain two or three hours, when the letter came with the following reply: 'Tell Mr Thomson that he may leave; but if ever he return here again, he will not be permitted to leave.' He then delivered a letter belonging to me, which the French had intercepted.

"I returned home, and next day proceeded to Papeete to consult with the brethren. We called a meeting at Papea, and, anxious to save the shedding of blood, wished to mediate between the French and the people. We waited upon the governor and then proceeded to Hidiia, but found it was too late: hostilities had begun—some are killed upon both sides. The brethren, finding that they could not now interfere, returned. Mr Howe and I went to Tautira, and assisted Mr Jesson in the removal of his family. No one would pull the boat, and that fatiguing duty devolved on ourselves. On our way back, we saw the French steamer coming round. When abreast of Hidiia, she commenced firing grape shot upon the helpless women and children. She kept firing all along the coast, and came to anchor abreast of Taravao. We pulled past her in the dark—the coast was covered with lights; the people retiring to the mountains. The governor is on board the steamer. Very few people now remain at Papea: only two or three with Mr Orsmond, and three or four at Mr Jesson's place. All are collected at Hidiia. The consequences of the affair will be awful. We think of returning soon to Hidiia. All the missionaries are safe."

AMERICA.

Up to the 19th ult. all was quiet in Philadelphia, and the military still continued to parade the streets. Arrests were daily being made, and large rewards were offered for the apprehension of every person concerned in the riots. Judge Jones charged the grand jury of the court of quarter sessions upon the subject of arming churches, &c., on the 16th, pronouncing such acts to be illegal. About 7,000 dollars had been raised for the families of those soldiers who were killed or wounded during the disturbances, and the greatest readiness had been manifested to aid in this work of public gratitude. Similar demonstrations are being made towards General Cadwallader and several other officers.

The *Madisonian* publishes another batch of statements connected with the subject of annexation, though they were ordered to be suppressed by the Senate. First, there is a "message" from Mr Tyler to the Senate, in which he strongly expresses his own opinion in favour of the treaty, as the only remedy of keeping Texas out of the clutches of England; the message also shows, that General Jackson entertains the same sentiments as Mr Tyler himself, and all this is strengthened by the testimony of Mr President Houston, who declares that the country, of which he is the head, like a young bride, presents herself for the espousals of the United States, and if on this the third occasion of proffering her hand, she is rejected, great will be her indignation towards her ungallant suitor. A letter from a Mr Allen to a Mr Walker, dated Houston, March 1, 1844, shows the feeling in Texas in favour of the annexation, and that "if the effort fails, President Houston will make a free-trade treaty with England." Finally, there is a "circular," addressed to the French, Spanish, English, and Russian ministers, by an *employé* of the Mexican government, in which the Santa Anna version of the project is put forth.

Papers from Vera Cruz, to the 25th Junc., state that the Mexican Secretary at War, regarding the annexation of Texas as *de facto* a declaration of war by the United States, had made a large requisition upon Congress for men and money.

INDIA.

The Lady Mary Wood steamer arrived at Malta from Alexandria on the night of the 25th ult., bringing the overland India mail, despatched from Bombay by the Akbar steamer, on the 19th June.

The abrupt recall of Lord Ellenborough had produced a great sensation at Bombay, from which place alone intelligence has reached us. It was not known there what course Lord Ellenborough intended to adopt. The news of the recall is supposed to have reached him on the 14th or 15th, and he might desire the Bentinck, then on the point of starting for Suez, to wait a few hours for him. It was supposed by others that his lordship would await the arrival of Sir Henry Hardinge.

The most striking spectacle of the month is Sir Charles Napier's conference with twenty thousand Beloochees, chiefs and their followers, at Hyderabad. They appear to have been mustered that they and the English might look at each other; that they might recognise and feel the power of their conquerors, deliberately; that they might, in each other's presence, swear allegiance, obey the summons, and see each other obey it—each man an example to the rest, and all a twenty-thousand fold example to him. Sir Charles provided for the muster with precautions that evince his notion of the dangerous and dubious character of his guests; they were surrounded by troops and artillery prepared to combine and act at a moment's notice; half of the wild warriors were kept unarmed; as each man entered the lines he was under a kind of police surveillance; a month's provisions were collected, as if the British were to be prepared for a siege; and all the Englishwomen were kept out of the way. The parley led to no battle; but whether it answered its specified purpose, remains to be disclosed. Sir Charles Napier and his guests, says the correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*, "are understood to have been mutually gratified with the interview." All passed off quietly.

Some agitation had been created in Gwalior, by orders of the supreme government to take possession of the flourishing Mahratta town of Boorhampore, and to imprison the father of the young Queen Dowager of Gwalior, Tara Bae, as he was supposed to be involved in certain intrigues. The old man, however, was released, under surveillance, at the intercession of the Queen; and instead of seizing the city, the Governor-general remained content with the dismissal of the Amil, whose intrigues and insolence to the British authorities had provoked the seizure.

The intelligence from the Punjab represents that country in as disturbed a state as ever. Dhulop Singh, the boy king, has been dangerously ill of the small-pox; and his prime minister and his mother, yet a young woman, are said to have been discovered intriguing, to the great dissatisfaction of the Sikh troops, who rule in that country and wait but an occasion to create another revolution to their own profit. The defeat and death of Ittur Singh, and Cashmeera Singh, who attempted to upset the power of Heera Singh, has for a time consolidated the power of the prime minister. Peshora Singh, who fled from the battle and surrendered himself a prisoner, was said to have been killed; this report excited the Sikh soldiers, who were not pacified until the prisoner was shown to them. The utmost care was taken on the British frontiers to prevent any collision with the Sikhs; but as yet no satisfaction has been given for their invasion of the British territories after the defeat of Uttur Singh.

Dost Mohammed was at Cabul; Akbar Khan at Jellalabad, successfully fighting with some petty chiefs, but encumbered by his own large force and the want of provisions.

The report respecting the assembling a large army on the Sutlej had died away; although some warlike preparations were making, such as the collection of camels in Scinde and of military stores at Ferozepore.

WEST INDIES.

By advices from Dominica to the 23rd June, we learn that the insurrection had been quelled, and the operation of martial law suspended. The governor had issued a proclamation of amnesty to all, with the exception of the ringleaders, ninety of whom had been retained in prison to undergo the decision of the laws, several hundreds having been discharged under the admonitory advice of the governor. The islands had been overwhelmed with rains and floods, with great damage to the roads, &c. A singular discovery had been made in taking a census of the Island of Trinidad, being that of "two encampments of aboriginal Indians of the island, belonging to a race perfectly distinct from any hitherto known."

Postscript.

Wednesday, August 7th.

ACCOUCHEMENT OF HER MAJESTY.

Yesterday morning, at ten minutes before eight o'clock, the Queen was safely delivered of a prince.

In the room with her Majesty were his Royal Highness Prince Albert, Dr Locock, and Mrs Lilly (the monthly nurse); and in the rooms adjoining were the other medical attendants, Sir James Clark and Dr Ferguson, and also the lady in waiting on the Queen.

Her Majesty was taken ill yesterday morning, soon after five o'clock. At two minutes past six o'clock a messenger, mounted upon one of the fleetest horses in the royal stables, was dispatched from the castle to Mr Howell, the superintendent at the Slough station, with instructions to communicate, by means of the electro-magnetic telegraph, to the person in attendance at the telegraph office, at Paddington, to the effect that the letters, which had been waiting there for several days past, addressed to the cabinet

ministers and the great officers of state, were to be delivered at the residences of the respective parties without a moment's delay. Within three minutes of the instructions reaching the Slough station, the telegraph was not only at work, but the communication was dispatched to Paddington, and an acknowledgment of its receipt returned to Slough. And this was all effected within eleven minutes of the special messenger's departure from the castle!

The first special train which reached Slough from Paddington arrived at the station at twenty three minutes past eight o'clock, having performed the eighteen miles and a quarter in exactly eighteen minutes, being at the extraordinary rate of more than sixty miles an hour! Sir R. Peel, the Duke of Wellington, and all the cabinet ministers, were speedily in attendance.

The firing of the Park and Tower guns soon made the news known to the citizens of the metropolis. A form of thanksgiving has been prepared by the Archbishop of Canterbury; and, with a long rigmarole about England, Wales, Scotland, Berwick-upon-Tweed, acts "against disturbing episcopal communion," and acts "against irregular baptisms and marriages," is inserted in the *Gazette*.

Long before noon the intelligence of the auspicious event was known all over the metropolis, and the usual demonstrations of loyalty were evinced in the several parishes in honour of the occasion.

The shipping in the river during the afternoon presented a pleasing effect. The crews of almost every vessel in the pool, as well as those in the St Katherine's, London, East and West India docks, tried to outvie each other in decking out their craft with their several signal flags, and with those of all nations.

HALF-PAST EIGHT O'CLOCK, P.M. TUESDAY.—It is most gratifying to be enabled to state that, up to this period, both her Majesty and the royal infant are as well as the most loyal and devoted subject of the Sovereign could ardently hope or desire.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

In the House of Commons, the few remaining bills before it were carried through their respective stages, and it was intimated by Sir ROBERT PEEL that on to-day or on Thursday he will move an adjournment for a limited period. There is to be no prorogation until the decision of the judges on the writ of error.

Sir ROBERT PEEL also moved a congratulatory address to her Majesty on the birth of a Prince, which was, of course, carried by acclamation.

IRISH CHURCH PATRONAGE.—Captain Bernal, advertising to the instructions avowed by Sir Robert Peel to have been given to Lord de Grey in 1841, with respect to the disposal of church patronage in Ireland, contrasted them with the appointments actually made, the majority selected being individuals all violently opposed to the national system of education, for which the House had given an additional grant of £25,000. He moved for a copy of the instructions issued to Lord Heytesbury, on the subject of the future disposal of that patronage. Sir Robert Peel contended that Lord De Grey had faithfully fulfilled the implied conditions on which he undertook the government of Ireland, which was to dispense church patronage with a view to professional merit and private character. As to the papers now moved for, none such were in existence. He had conversed with Lord Heytesbury, and imparted his own views to him; but he would tell the House that he had not made it a *sine qua non* in the promotion of Irish clergymen, that they should be partisans of the national system. To have required this, would have been to enlist the pride of individuals against the object which government had at heart; and no consideration should ever induce him to take so unwise a course. After some remarks from Mr Wyse, Lord Ebrington, Mr Darley, Mr Sheil, Lord Eliot, and Mr M. J. O'Connell, Captain Bernal withdrew his motion.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords last night, after voting an address of congratulation to her Majesty upon the late auspicious event, was occupied for some time by a motion, of which the Marquis of Normanby had given notice, upon the state of public business before the House. No less than ten bills had that day been disposed of, respecting which their Lordships had heard only the titles and preambles; but there were two others, that for amending the Poor Law and that upon Metropolitan Improvements, which most especially required the laborious consideration which at this period of the session it was impossible to afford them. No excuse for the delay in bringing up the bills was suggested by any activity in legislation upon other subjects, for but two acts of importance had been achieved in the last five months.

The Duke of WELLINGTON replied that the business of parliament had been conducted in the same manner for the last 150 years. The greater number of legislative measures were, of necessity, originated in the House of Commons, and the government were not to blame for the delay in their reaching the House of Lords. The inconvenience had been long felt, and repeatedly complained of.

The Marquis of LANDSOWNE remarked that the present system reduced the House of Lords to a mere court of registry, and hoped that something would be done next session to remedy the evil.

After a few observations from the Marquis of CLANRICARDE and Lord WICKLOW, the Marquis of NORMANBY replied, and his motion, which was for certain returns relative to the transaction of the public business in the House of Lords, was agreed to.

POOR LAW AMENDMENT BILL.—The Bishop of Exeter urged that there was no time for the consideration of so important a measure, and thought it

better to drop the measure, and take it up early in the next session of parliament. He entered at great length on the general question of the Poor law. During the whole of his speech, the episcopal bench was entirely deserted, and there were not a dozen peers present—sometimes only seven or eight, the Duke of Wellington being one of them, having moved out of his accustomed place to a seat at the table, in order to hear more attentively the arguments of the right rev. prelate, who concluded by moving the commitment of the bill that day six months. The Duke of Wellington did not consider that the period of the evening was too late, the members too few, or the session too far advanced, to consider a measure recommended by the deliberate sanction of the House of Commons, which had been contemplated for several years, and the purport of which was to remove evils found to exist in the present Poor law. The object of the Bishop of Exeter was the repeal of the existing law, which had been devised to correct the enormous mischiefs of the old system. If he were in earnest, let him bring in his measure, either of repeal or of amelioration, and submit it to the consideration of parliament, instead of attempting to stop the present bill. After some further remarks, a division was called for, when the amendment of the Bishop of Exeter was rejected by 17 to 1. The bill was then considered in committee, the discussion on which occupied the rest of the evening.

THE FRENCH IN TAHITI.—Last evening a public meeting was held in Finsbury chapel, Moorfields, for the purpose of considering the case of Mr Pritchard and the French in Tahiti. Prayers having been read by the Rev. Mr Carlile, the Rev. Alex. Fletcher, minister of the chapel, said that the subject was chiefly of a religious character, but was, nevertheless, not wholly free from politics. A very great aggression, and one of a nature to call for the reprobation of all protestants, had been made, and it was the duty of the British government to see that full satisfaction was given. Josiah Conder, Esq., deeply regretted that not only were the British public in a great measure ignorant of the real cause of the misunderstanding, but were almost unacquainted with the geographical position of the island. He dated the beginning of the unhappy differences from 1836, when two Roman catholic priests, who had entered Tahiti clandestinely, were expelled by order of the native government. Those priests well knew that it was unlawful for any to enter the island without permission, and that Queen Pomare was fully justified in the course she had taken. The priests were missionaries from the Propaganda Society of Paris, and were sent to the island in opposition to the protestant ministers and form of worship already established there, for no other purpose than to spread the errors of the church of Rome [hear, hear]. Mr D. W. Wire moved a resolution—

"That this meeting feels religiously impelled to give expression to the feelings of indignation and just resentment which is awakened in the bosom of every Englishman by the unprovoked outrage committed by the French upon her Majesty's consul at Tahiti, in violation of every principle of honour and justice."

The meeting was next addressed by the Rev. William Foster and the Rev. John Burnet, both of whom spoke in strong terms of the mild and conciliatory policy pursued by the foreign secretary, Lord Aberdeen. The resolution was carried unanimously. The Rev. G. Smith moved a resolution to the following effect:—

"That the meeting felt that the good fame and honour of Great Britain were shamefully compromised by the denial of the pledge, repeatedly solicited, given by Mr Canning in 1837, and by the withdrawal of the English naval force from Tahiti." The resolution having been unanimously carried, the meeting separated.—*Morning Chronicle*.

LATEST NEWS FROM TAHITI.—The *Times* of this morning gives the following intelligence, brought by the Favourite, south sea whaler, of an engagement which took place between the French troops and the natives:—

By means of a telegraphic communication which the French have already established in the island, orders were conveyed a day or two before the Favourite left to one of the French steam-frigates then lying in the Bay of Papeete, to embark troops and proceed to Tairapu, forty miles distant, and situated at the other side of the island of Tahiti. At the time of starting she had 150 soldiers on board. This order is supposed to have been caused by an outbreak, the particulars of which, as far as could be gained, are as follows:—

A number of the natives, who now live in encampments up the mountains since they have been expelled the town, were seated taking a quiet meal, when some Frenchmen came upon one party, consisting of two chiefs and their wives, and seized hold of the women, whom they attempted to drag on board their boat, then lying moored on the beach a short distance off. The chiefs resisted this aggression, and were immediately shot. A third chief then rose and exclaimed, "What are we dogs, that we are treated thus? We are a quiet people, and wish for peace, but you will not let us have it." Whereupon the French fired at him, but, missing their aim, he gave the signal to the natives for an onset. At the first charge fifteen Frenchmen were either killed or wounded, and a second attack almost immediately taking place, between thirty and forty more of their number were killed or disabled by the Tahitians. Soon after this transaction had taken place, it was reported that many of the French had deserted, saying they had only been brought out to be shot at. The men generally do not seem at all contented, for they appear half-starved and are badly clothed. The regulation that no one is to be allowed out after eight o'clock at night is strictly enforced against the natives and foreigners, but the French themselves seem to pay little or no attention to this order.

Just as the Favourite was getting under weigh, the crew saw the French steam-frigate return from Tairapu, but the wind being favourable for their passage, and they having been delayed a long time, they did not put back to learn whether any more fighting had taken place.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour
English ..	1980	20	410			
Scotch....						
Irish		280	1360			
Foreign ..	8830	2840	1100			

The market is rather stiffer, though but little business has yet been done.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Vox Veritatis and Simplex" received.
 "One of the People." Next week if possible.
 "W. T. C." We did not notice the paragraph referred to.
 "A member of the Edinburgh Complete Suffrage Union." Thanks for his hint.
 "J. F. Mandeno." Next week.

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 For every additional line..... 4d.
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The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7, 1844.

SUMMARY.

THE latest, and, to many of our readers, the most interesting intelligence of the week, will be the birth of a second British prince, a Duke of York—for, like Minerva, he is born with the insignia of his rank attached to him. Her Majesty's accouchement took place yesterday morning, and, according to the latest accounts, herself and the royal infant were doing well. We are sure all will join in congratulations on the event, and in heartiest wishes for the speedy recovery of the royal mother.

The important news just received from Morocco, and the affairs of Tahiti, have together created quite "a sensation," both in the French and English capitals, and almost a panic in their money markets. The Moorish Emperor has, it appears, refused to comply with all the terms of the *ultimatum* dictated by the French government. A second *ultimatum* has been sent, and an answer required by the 1st of August, failing which, the Prince de Joinville was to commence operations along the whole coast of Morocco. Indeed, according to the latest accounts, the bombardment of Tangiers had already commenced. The war mania in France will at length find a vent, and the desire for "military glory," with which our volatile neighbours are now well nigh frenzied, will probably be gratified to repletion. The French government—but especially the French monarch—knows too well how to make use of, as well as to raise, the whirlwind. The last war paroxysm cost the French nation the liberties of her capital—the present will doubtless be purchased by fresh invasions on her remaining rights, and certainly at the expense of crippled resources and an incalculable increase of national burdens. Then, when it is too late, will *la belle France* discover her folly and her enslaved condition. The affair of Tahiti appears to be as yet far from solution. The French press is unanimous in its justification of the "protectorate," and in refusing reparation to England for the indignities cast upon its consul; and in that country the press, be it recollected, is omnipotent. The matter will, therefore, probably terminate by an explanation of, or apology for, the treatment of Mr Pritchard by the French government. For the rest, we think it clear enough, that France will neither disavow, nor give up, the sovereignty of Tahiti—that, as a question of international equity, irrespective of higher considerations, the English government (having several times refused the protectorate of Tahiti) has no right to interfere, any further than by the use of moral influence, between the French government and Queen Pomare—and that the resistance which (as will appear from an account elsewhere) has been offered, and the blood shed by the natives of the island, in opposing the cruel tyranny of the usurping government, will be made the pretext for banishing from the island the protestant missionaries, and everybody likely to evince disapprobation of French designs. We trust we may be mistaken. Public opinion in this country may mitigate the evil consequences of the French usurpation; but the forcible intervention of the British government would be as impolitic and pernicious as it would be a violation of international law and moral principle. We have referred to the matter at greater length elsewhere.

From the scene of French, to that of English, aggression, the transition is, alas! too easy. Intelligence from India informs us that the British forces in that country are enjoying a short respite in their career of conquest. Sir C. Napier is engaged in consolidating the British authority in Scinde, for which purpose he has held an amicable conference with 20,000 Beloochees and their chiefs. The interview was, it is said, mutually satisfactory. Matters in the Punjab are not yet ripe for the intervention of the Governor-general, and Lord Ellenborough's recall may still further delay the step. From China we learn that the Emperor was still disposed to act in good faith, and even contemplated the legalisation of the opium trade.

The thought, that this is probably the last time, this side Christmas, it will be our irksome task to

chronicle the wearisome proceedings of our two houses of legislature, will, probably, be as gratifying to our readers as it is to ourselves. Practically, although not officially, parliament will be prorogued to-morrow. The haste of the House of Commons to finish its task makes its legislation a complete farce. On Tuesday evening seventeen public bills passed through a stage in rather more than half an hour, and without a single speech being made on either side of the House! It appears, also, that the supporters of government have adopted a very effectual mode of cutting short inconvenient discussions. The average attendance of members has for some days past been insufficient to keep together a House, but the desire to get through the remaining business has held the counting-out policy generally in abeyance. If, however, an obnoxious motion is brought forward, an honourable member—Mr Cripps, perhaps—fancies forty members are not present—the House is counted—and the discussion stopped. All this must be very edifying to the country! Allowance must, however, be made for such vagaries, since the services of all our legislators are gratuitous! Were it otherwise, we might call them to account.

Captain Warner's invention was the subject of a long debate in the House of Commons on Wednesday. From what transpired during that discussion, it seems doubtful whether the Captain's mysterious agent is able to produce those direful results which he predicts, or, if so, whether it is manageable for warlike purposes. His invention—or rather, inventions—consist of "the invisible shell," and what is called the "long range." The former was the instrument employed in destroying the John o'Gaunt. By means of the latter, Captain Warner professes his ability to demolish fleets or fortifications at the distance of seven miles. For the purchase of the two secrets he demanded of the government £200,000 a-piece, refusing to explain their properties until that, or some other large sum of money, had been guaranteed to him. This, of course, government refused. A second unfavourable circumstance is the fact, that Captain Warner has throughout shown more anxiety to have his secrets bought than tested. He has given evidence of the formidable properties of his "invisible shell," but has always avoided testing "the long range"—the far more important of the two. It seems, however, that government is prepared to give him another trial. Meanwhile, a rival to Captain Warner has risen up in the person of Vice-admiral the Earl of Dundonald, who, according to his own account, in a petition presented to the House of Lords on Friday, had invented, years ago, a plan for destroying hostile fleets and batteries, doing more destruction in a few weeks than £100,000,000 expended in war had ever done; that a commission had reported his plan to be efficient, but that, at the request of the Prince Regent, and hoping that forbearance from war would continue, he had refrained from making known his invention. We hope, in detailing these matters, it will not be supposed that we approve either of the use of such dreadful machines, or of government negotiating to secure them. If war between man and man be justifiable, it is undoubtedly right to use the most effectual weapons of offence—however frightful they may be—in securing its object. Should the progress of scientific discovery bring to light agents of such tremendous power as to make war a mere system of mutual extermination; and thus render useless or unattainable honour, glory, valour, skill, and all those qualities and passions which find their full development under our present system of warfare, and conceal its naked horrors; it will, we believe, be the harbinger of universal peace. Nor is this the only probable advantage. If governments find the employment of physical force inoperative in maintaining their authority, how can they subsist but in the confidence and affection of their subjects?

On Thursday Sir James Graham announced several concessions to Roman Catholics in the Irish Charitable Bequests and Donations bill. The status of the archbishops and bishops of that persuasion is to be recognised, although not in connexion with any localities; and a catholic secretary is to be appointed. These slight alterations appear to have disarmed the hostility to the bill, so that on the motion for its third reading on Monday evening, Mr M. J. O'Connell, after having expressed his satisfaction with the measure, presented more than 200 petitions against it!

"The funeral baked-meats
 Did coldly furnish forth the marriage table."

Lord Brougham's Insolvent Debtors bill, which was considered in committee in the House of Commons on Friday and Monday, turns out to be as crude a specimen of legislation as was Lord Cottenham's measure on the same subject carefully matured. It only abolishes the present remedy in debts below £20. It substitutes nothing in the place of that which it abolishes. It leaves untouched the imprisonment of debtors to a larger amount than that which we have just mentioned. It leaves the small creditor without a remedy at all, and renders the large one in full possession of

all the abuses and oppressions which are so much complained of in the present system. Indeed, so obvious are its defects, that Sir James Graham was obliged to introduce several new clauses, giving increased facilities to creditors and on the property of debtors. The House was occupied on Monday night with the second reading of the Roman Catholic Penal Acts bill, and several measures of minor interest.

An incident occurred in the House of Lords, on Thursday evening, which would seem to render one of two things necessary—either that the Lord Chancellor should give up the custody of the Queen's conscience, or his intimacy with Lord Brougham. Lord Lyndhurst went into opposition against her Majesty's government! The occasion was the third reading of the Irish Law Courts bill, moved by Lord Wharncliffe. The Lord Chancellor objected that the bill recognised the continuance of a difference between the law customs of England and Ireland. Warming with his subject, and inspired by the cheers from the opposition benches, he indignantly exclaimed, "Why, then, is Ireland to be put on a different footing," and followed it up with much more of the same kind of eloquence. Such language is somewhat novel, coming from the man who denounced the Irish people as aliens in blood, language, and religion. The poor President of the Council effected his retreat by proposing that the bill should be submitted to the law lords.

The Unlawful Oaths (Ireland) bill, the State of the Navy, and the Railways bill, have also engaged their lordships' attention. None of them, except the last, call for observation. On the third reading of that measure, on Friday, the Bishop of London proposed an amendment expunging Mr Thornley's amendment, which compelled railway companies to run third class trains every day on which passengers are conveyed, not excluding Sunday. The matter was warmly debated, and the discussion adjourned. On Monday night the subject was resumed, and the matter was arranged by the adoption of a clause which provides that whenever any railway should run any train whatever upon the Sabbath day, to such train, or to one at least of any trains so run on the day, third class carriages should be attached. This was followed by much discussion upon such points as whether Good Friday and Christmas day were to be regarded as week-days—whether third-class carriages were to be provided with seats, and whether Sunday trains should call at intermediate stations—all which things prove how tenderly their lordships protect and coddle the poor. We would suggest that the prices of refreshments at railway stations should be fixed by law—for surely it would protect the poor from much imposition!

The incendiary trials at Ipswich have concluded; but, says the *Suffolk Chronicle*, "without divulging any facts to show why parliament should not have addressed itself to the question of incendiarism—quite the contrary, for absolutely nothing has transpired to lead to the hope that after harvest the same scenes will not be acted over again. If the causes be not removed, it is but natural to suppose the same effects will follow. The law has done its utmost, and it remains to be seen whether the horrors of transportation are sufficient to cure those evils which are sapping the very foundations of social life—whether idleness and starvation at home are preferable to hard labour and a bellyfull in penal settlements abroad. For our own parts, we doubt the efficacy of the remedy—we doubt whether anything like a return to a better feeling is to be expected whilst the union house and the prison offer more substantial comforts to the poor man than he can meet with without their walls." The same paper adds:—"Upon looking over the calendar, we find no less than thirty-six of the committing magistrates are clergymen!"

We would direct attention to the brief report in another column of Mr Vincent's enthusiastic reception by the inhabitants of Kilmarnock—a reception honourable alike to the late candidate for that borough and his supporters. Elsewhere, also, will be found the report of the Lords secret committee, for the inquiry into Post office espionage. All that we can now say respecting it is, that it is just such a report as might have been anticipated. "Set a thief to catch a thief," is an adage which fully expresses what was to be expected, and what has been the result. We shall, probably, return to the subject next week. The Commons report was presented to the House on Monday night, but has not yet been published.

POSSIBILITIES OF WAR.

THE intelligence recently received from Tahiti opens up to us the possibility of a war with France. We have no very disturbing apprehensions on this head. The domestic position of Louis Philippe, the general policy pursued by that monarch, the alarming contingencies to which war would expose the whole system of continental despotism, the internal revolutions to which it would probably give rise, and the unpreparedness, in a popular point of view, of this and other European kingdoms to plunge into new expenses for the accomplishment of objects which, if even in themselves

important, are relatively trivial, afford us a strong guarantee that this awful calamity will be averted from us. Nevertheless, the horizon is dark, and the future uncertain. The difficulties of Guizot's administration are already great, and there is a large and clamorous party in France panting to commence hostilities with England. Already has the cabinet of the Tuileries encountered storms of reproach for its alleged deference to Downing street, in disavowing the occupation of Tahiti by M. Du Petit Thouars. It has once wounded the sensitive vanity of the French people, by yielding back the sovereignty it had seized. We expect it will do so again. But we cannot conceal from ourselves the possibility that affairs may take another and less hopeful turn, and that the Society islands may become a bone of fierce contention between the two nations.

The bare prospect is horrifying. War, carried on wheresoever and by whomsoever it may, is an awful scourge of humanity—an unmitigable curse—a volcano, which throws into a state of fusion all the evil passions of our fallen nature. But a war between Great Britain and France—a war which will, almost of necessity, suck into its vortex all European states—who can contemplate even a remote chance of it, without starting back aghast? We talk about the importance of vindicating the national honour—have we ever asked ourselves what that same honour is worth, and what the price which we are asked to pay for it? It is just with nations as with individuals—they rush into fatal collisions because they fear the imputation of fear. The honour which is talked of in such glowing terms, as above all price—to be maintained at any sacrifice—what is it but the ability and the daring to set up ten, twenty, or fifty thousand men to shoot others, or to be themselves shot, until one of the two opposing parties cries, "Hold! enough!" Time was when men of high station and boasted intelligence used to esteem it an honour to drink every boon companion under the table, and the brutal habit was regarded as an essential rite of hospitality. Is national honour worth twopence more? Is it not equally barbarous, equally absurd, equally wicked, and a million-fold more disastrous in its results? Why, what a mere name is it—what a picture of grotesque and self-imposed duty, that we should go out, and in the light of God's sun, commit myriads of murders in order to maintain it!

Then think of the cost. The living and ever-acting energies of society absorbed, as by a sponge, from all those channels in which they tend to ameliorate, adorn, and elevate the condition of our people, and squeezed into a cup of destruction to be handed to our fellow-men—the long oblivion which must ensue of all just principles, and the familiarity with which all minds must soon learn to contemplate the blackest infamies—the occasions which the exigencies of war would create for trampling upon our yet remaining liberties, and burdening our shoulders with yet heavier taxation—the confusion into which all our commercial relationships must needs be thrown—the guilty passions which would be let loose—the deep wounds which would be inflicted upon international brotherhood, and which, when once inflicted, are so difficult and tedious of cure—the wailing which it would carry into almost every family, and the ruthless severance of the tenderest ties which everywhere it would ensure—death, in every form of ghastliness, dealt out to human beings by the thousand—every feeling of benevolence plucked from the bosom, and made to give place to a grim delight in blood—every dictate of religion trodden under foot, as unworthy the notice of warriors and heroes—these are the dark colours with which the picture must be painted; and yet these convey to us, combine them as we will, only a faint impression, a sort of outline, of the dreadful reality.

We trust our people, and especially our Christian people, will be thoroughly awake to their danger and their duty. Certain it is that no religious ends can be promoted by European hostilities, howsoever they may terminate. We hope no sympathy with the Queen of Tahiti, no spurious zeal for the stability of missionary institutions, no mistaken regard to outraged consular dignity, will mislead the heart of English society in reference to this matter. We fervently pray that no breath of our churches may blow the spark into a flame. We must have patience—we may even remonstrate—but war—what will war do for us, or for our missions, but ride roughshod over all? No! no! Let us deprecate war as the worst calamity which could befall us.

LOCAL INFLAMMATIONS AND THEIR CAUSES.

POLITICIANS are at present busily engaged in accounting for the disorder of the eastern counties. We have already published our *diagnosis*, and all we hear serves but to confirm us in the opinion that incendiarism is but another symptom of that universal disease which has from time to time manifested itself in Lancashire, Wales, Ireland, and elsewhere. There is, however, ample scope

for further remark, and we shall take leave to present the subject to our readers under a somewhat different aspect.

The inhabitants of every civilised country are essentially divisible into producers and non-producers. Were this the place, it might be readily proved that such a division is an inevitable result of social advancement. It might, moreover, be shown that the existence of a non-producing class, so long as its numbers are not unnaturally augmented, is eminently beneficial—that the landowner and the capitalist are often unconscious agents in creating national prosperity—that the author and the philosopher are the pioneers of improvement—and further, that in becoming a non-producer, in the very act of acquiring riches (provided they be acquired honestly), a man is necessarily benefiting his fellow-creatures.

But whilst we fully admit the good conferred upon the community by a non-producing class, so long as that class is of *natural* growth, we can conceive nothing more detrimental to the economical interests of society, than an artificial increase of the non-producers; and it is to the unnatural augmentation of their numbers that our national distresses and the disturbances to which they give rise are ultimately attributable.

Let us consider for a moment the enormous development which the non-producing class has acquired. We have the army, the navy, the pensioners, and all employed in upholding military establishments, the clergy, the police, the excise, the preventive service—state officers, state pensioners, paupers, poor law officers, lawyers, dependents on the national debt, and so on. Of these very few, if any, are economically beneficial to society, whilst the majority of them are not only passively, but actively, inimical to it. There must yet be added, the far greater number, who are directly or indirectly maintained by these classes as servants and tradesmen; for it is clear that those who are solely employed in ministering to the wants of the non-producers are practically themselves non-producers also.

It needs no argument to prove that the food, clothing, furniture, and all the consumable articles required by these sections of the community, have been originally derived from the working people. No matter what may have been the channels through which they have found their way—whether by the short route of tithes and poor rates, or by the circuitous underground course of corn laws and sugar duties—still it cannot be denied that such articles have been grown or manufactured, that they have not been so grown or manufactured by the parties consuming them, and hence, that they must have been by some means or other taken from the rest of the community.

Had the non-producing class not exceeded its proper standard, no evil would have resulted from this; for, as we have already said, some equivalent is either immediately or ultimately given by all naturally-evolved non-producers for the things they consume. But the case is now different. The class has been augmented to probably ten times its normal amount; very few of its number confer any benefit corresponding to the substance they consume, and they consequently entail upon the working classes an awful increase of labour, and greatly deduct from their share of the necessities of life.

The proximate cause, then, of the misery of the working classes is, that the nation swarms with parasites. The body politic is overrun with creatures that sustain themselves by robbing it of its blood—creatures that form no true part of the body itself—that do not exist as elements of any essential organ, performing some useful function, but creatures which are wholly extrinsic, and which crawl about, feeding and thriving upon the nutriment which should have nourished and invigorated both the nation, and the individual atoms of which it is composed. Society, as a natural consequence, presents an unhealthy aspect. Commerce, agriculture, and manufactures, its several limbs, (if we may continue the metaphor,) are wasted and inert, its circulation slow and feeble, its skin pale, and its whole system emaciated. Here and there, however, where these *epizoa*, that have fastened themselves upon its surface, swarm in unusual numbers, a local irritation is set up, and this is oftentimes followed by inflammation. Hence arise incendiarisms, riots, and the various manifestations of popular anger.

When the nation shall diligently set itself to tear away its ragged clothing—the dirty, worn-out, corrupt laws with which it is encompassed, and under which these creatures nestle and hide themselves—then will there be some hope of its freeing itself from the plague with which it is afflicted. But the worst feature of the case is, that the disease has induced such lassitude and languor that it is scarcely possible to induce the nation to take measures for effecting a cure. It would almost seem, that the disorder must be yet worse before the mass of the people will rouse themselves.

We cannot say much for the elegance of our simile; neither can it be considered as very complimentary to certain of our fellow-subjects. Ne-

vertheless, we believe it to be appropriate, and those to whom it may be offensive must blame, not us, but themselves, for leading a life which requires such an illustration.

REFORM CRISIS IN SWEDEN.

THE friends of political equality will, doubtless, be both surprised and interested to learn that Sweden is, at the present moment, the theatre of an arduous but bloodless struggle between the aristocratic and democratic principles, strikingly similar to that which agitates our own country. In one important point, however, the resemblance, unhappily, fails. Here, the cause of freedom is in a languishing condition, with the prospect of many years' protracted agitation ere its triumph is assured—there, democracy is in the ascendant, and, before the expiration of many months, Sweden will probably be able to boast of a constitution more thoroughly democratic than, with the sole exception of Norway, can at present be found on this side the Atlantic. The particulars of this interesting crisis we gather from the *Times*, which has already begun to sound the note of alarm at the prospect of an event so ominous to the maintenance of aristocratic domination throughout Europe.

In all the changes which have occurred in the Swedish constitution since the reign of Gustavus Vasa, the four orders of the nobility, the clergy, the burgesses, and the peasants, have maintained their separate existence as independent members of the legislature. The aristocratic chamber consists of the heads of the noble families; the spiritual body, of the archbishop of Upsal, twelve bishops, fifty deputies of the clergy, and four from the universities of the kingdom; the Commons are represented by sixty-six deputies from the cities, and six from the mining districts; and, lastly, the order of the peasants forms a chamber of about 120 freeholders of that rank and degree. Each of these bodies may originate legislative measures, or put its veto on measures which the other orders have passed. As long as the order of peasants yielded an habitual deference to that of the nobles this complicated machine continued to act; but the progress of democratic opinions and the influence of the press has overthrown the balance of this clumsy constitution, and all parties are agreed that a more simple and effectual system must be introduced. The mode of effecting this change is the subject of the great dispute which has brought on the crisis of a reform bill in Sweden. The subject was already submitted to the deliberations of the diet of 1840, and certain resolutions, tending to assimilate the Swedish constitution to that of Norway, were actually carried. By a provision of the fundamental laws of the country, changes of this importance must not only be adopted by one diet, but confirmed by another. Hence, the reform which was commenced in 1840 can only be consummated at the present time. The new diet was, as will be seen from an account in another column, opened on the 20th ult. by the new king in person, and there is a probability that, ere its deliberations come to an end, the constitution will have undergone a change tantamount to a revolution.

The radical party is now in the ascendant, having obtained a large majority in the last two elections. Their Reform bill proposes changes in the constitution which would, in a great measure, assimilate it with that of Norway. It substitutes, for the four orders of the present constitution, one sole legislative assembly. This body would consist of two hundred and fifty members, and it would choose out of its own ranks another body, to consist of seventy-five members, one-third of whom would go out of office every three years. This senate, or by whatever other name it might be called, is invested with no independent authority in the state, since, in case of a difference of opinion with the more numerous and popular assembly, the two chambers are to vote together. The presidents of these two chambers are to be elected by each assembly respectively, and changed every month, without being re-eligible. The general franchise which this bill would extend to the nation amounts pretty nearly to universal suffrage; for, in addition to a vast class of twenty-shilling freeholders, it admits a variety of qualifications calculated to include the great body of the people, and this franchise is to be exercised with the ballot. As in the United States, no person filling an office of trust or power in the state—that is, no general or staff officer, admiral, lord-lieutenant, or even minister—can sit in the legislative assembly.

Such is a general outline of the important measure which now awaits the deliberations and decision of the Swedish Diet. The popular enthusiasm, as in the case of the carrying of our ineffectual Reform bill, appears to have almost overborne anything like strenuous opposition from the crown or aristocracy. The cabinet is paralysed, weakened by divisions, and actually affects a sort of neutrality on a question of such vital importance. The last hope of the conservative party is centred in the Chamber of Nobles. But even here Count Ankarsward, a nobleman of great influence, acts as leader of the

opposition, and president of the reform committee. At present, therefore, there is every reason to suppose that the measure will ultimately become law.

The *Times* is quite out of temper at the prospect of this mighty, peaceful revolution; and not without reason, if we regard it as the great bulwark of aristocratic government. The French revolution of 1830 was felt throughout Europe. Monarchs trembled on their thrones, and the friends of freedom were everywhere encouraged and re-assured. To its influence is partially to be ascribed the passing of the Reform bill in this country. And yet how far do the changes consequent upon that successful outbreak fall short of the fundamental alterations in its constitution contemplated by the Swedish legislature! It would be premature at present to speculate upon the consequences of an event, as yet but half accomplished, upon the destinies of Europe. We shall doubtless have other opportunities of returning to the subject. To the friends of complete suffrage in this country, the progress of political emancipation in Sweden will be watched with deep and anxious interest. The zeal and energy of their northern brethren have created a national enthusiasm, destined to sweep before it the corrupt institutions of a feudal age, and erect on their ruins a constitution which, whatever may appear its minor defects in our eyes, acknowledges the right of man to self-government, and embodies the leading political principles of radical reformers in this country. The hardy sons of Scandinavia are about to unfurl the banner of democracy to universal Europe. From the far north shines the polar star of freedom—a beacon to aristocratic usurpation—a signal for renewed perseverance in their struggles for freedom to the oppressed in every clime. Sweden has given birth to some of the most sanguinary warriors of modern times: it is now, we trust, about to present a splendid example to the world, of the adequacy of moral and peaceful influence to work out a nation's freedom.

The Complete Suffrage Movement.

The Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union met at their office, 37, Waterloo street, on Monday afternoon—Mr Sturge in the chair.

Letters were read from Edinburgh, Kettering, London, Chatham, &c.

THE LATE ELECTION.

The following was from Kettering:—

"Kettering, 8, 1, 1844.

"RESPECTED FRIEND—Your noble stand upon principle at the late Birmingham election has given general satisfaction to the friends of complete suffrage in this part. We must have many such contests as we advance in teaching men to prefer principle to party. If our friends in the towns could be persuaded to adopt your principle, and, whenever there is an opening, bring forward a proper man, and support him by straight-forward means alone, whether their votes were few or many, they would soon have the public confidence. Thy friend,

"JOSEPH WELLS."

Letters and addresses to the same effect had been sent to Mr Sturge from suffrage associations and other friends of the cause of political freedom, in every part of the country, highly approving of the course taken at the late election.

PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE LATE ELECTION.

The Council were glad to hear that a meeting of the independent electors is to be held at the public office on Wednesday, "to consider the propriety of issuing an address to the independent electors of the United Kingdom, and taking such other steps as may be necessary to promote the great cause of political freedom."

VACANCY IN THE REPRESENTATION OF DUDLEY.

The Secretary reported that the standing committee appointed to watch vacant elections had printed an address to Dudley, and posted it there on Saturday, as soon as the vacancy became known. The following is a copy:—

"The Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union to the Electors of Dudley.

"You are unexpectedly called upon to exercise your political franchise. Deem us not intrusive when we respectfully and earnestly request that you will not support any candidate who will not pledge himself to contend for 'full, fair, and free representation;' and, as a means to obtain this end, will take his stand on the principle that 'redress of grievances should precede the voting of supplies.'

"Make no compromise of the principle that every male citizen of twenty-one years of age is entitled to, and ought to possess, the elective franchise, with such provisions as will render its exercise full, fair, and free. Pledge your candidate to support the supply movement, because the practical application of the rule—redress of grievances before granting the supplies—necessarily implies the adoption of complete suffrage, inasmuch as the master-grievance, non-representation, must be among the first removed.

"In tendering this advice, we offer no apology for urging it on the immediate consideration of the electors of Dudley, because we feel that an honest and straight-forward suffrage candidate must, of necessity, be the uncompromising friend of civil, religious, and commercial freedom; while no qualification short of this affords a guarantee that justice will be done to the people; and because it is our deliberate opinion that, until complete suffrage become the law of the land, the good of the many must ever be sacrificed to the advantage of the few. On behalf of the Council,

"JOSEPH STURGE, Chairman.

"Birmingham, 3rd day, 8th month (August), 1844.

COMPLETE SUFFRAGE.—BISHOP'S STORTFORD.—A lecture was delivered in the town of Bishop's Stortford, on Monday, the 29th ult., in the new lecture room, by Mr Ebenezer Clarke, of Snarebrook. The lecture comprised "the present condition and political grievances of the country; their causes and remedy," in which was shown that a full, fair, and complete representation of the people, is the only antidote for the existing evils. The attendance was good, the audience attentive; and, for two hours, the time occupied by the lecturer, appeared deeply interested in the following divisions of the subject. Present condition and political grievances. The necessity and origin of governments. The source from whence they should spring. The people. The inherent and indefeasible right of the people to choose their own governors. Dangerous to omit or give up this right. The evils consisted chiefly in the vast disproportions of wealth and power. Aristocratic rule. The game laws. National debt. Excessive taxation. Standing army and large navy. The National Establishments. The present poor law. Restricted commerce. An unemployed population, and consequent crime and pauperism. The causes of this distress. The departure from the first principles of good government. Complete representation. The ignorance and cupidity of mankind. The love and the practice of war. Legislation upon selfish, instead of Christian, principles. The remedy. Complete representation; comprehending the six points: complete suffrage, the ballot, electoral districts, no property qualification of members, payment of members, annual parliaments. A knowledge of the present state of things, and the education of the people on all subjects connected with civil and religious liberty. A sober and a thinking population, determined to work out the political freedom of themselves and others. They must first will it, and then work to accomplish it. There must be union and organisation. These must be upon liberal and Christian principles. The lecturer then concluded with an earnest and energetic appeal to his hearers, that, if they believed his statements and statistics, they were bound to act upon their convictions; and, if, in common with their fellow-countrymen, they would act honestly and firmly, they would convince their opponents they had a right to political freedom and equality—and, that, by their conduct they deserved it—and that the time was not far distant when they might expect it to their full content. Thanks were then voted to the lecturer, and Mr Josiah Retford, dissenting minister, who kindly presided, and, by his judicious observations, materially aided the meeting. The audience were requested to offer any objections, if there were any; but none were offered, and the meeting dispersed in the most orderly manner.

POST OFFICE ESPIONAGE.

REPORT FROM THE SECRET COMMITTEE RELATIVE TO THE POST OFFICE.

By the lords committee appointed a secret committee to inquire into the state of the law in respect to the detaining and opening of letters at the Post office, and into the mode under which the authority given for such opening and detaining has been exercised, and to report their opinion and observations thereupon to the House; and to whom was referred the petition of Joseph Mazzini, of 47, Devonshire street, Queen square, complaining of his letters having been detained and opened at the Post office, and praying for inquiry;

Ordered to report—That the committee have met, and inquired into the subject referred to them, and have examined several witnesses in relation thereto.

The committee have not thought it necessary to attempt to define the grounds upon which the government has exercised the power afforded by public conveyance of letters of obtaining such information as might be thought beneficial for the public service; it seems sufficient for the present purpose to state that the exercise of this power can be traced from the earliest institutions of this country for the conveyance of letters, from orders in council of the 22nd of November, 1626, and 24th of February, 1627. The secretaries of state were in time of war or danger to the state to be made acquainted, if they required it, with letters and communications to foreign parts.

In 1657, upon the first establishment of a regular post office, it was stated in the ordinance to be the best means to discover and prevent many dangerous and wicked designs against the commonwealth.

In letting to farm the Post office to individuals, and in proclamation of the 25th of May, 1663, and 25th of August, 1683, the power is distinctly claimed and reserved. The terms in which the provisions of the act, 9 Anne, cap. 10, upon this subject, are enacted, can only be explained upon the supposition that this power was at the time fully recognised, for that act gives no power to the secretary of state to detain or open letters, but prohibits others from doing so, except by an express warrant in writing under the hand of the principal secretary for every such opening or detaining.

The subsequent statute of 35 Geo. III., cap. 62, and 1 Vict., cap. 33, adopted nearly the same form of recognition.

The power, therefore, appears to have been exercised from the earliest period, and to have been recognised by several acts of parliament.

This appears to the committee to be the state of the law in respect to the detaining and opening of letters at the Post office, and they do not find any other authority for such detaining or opening.

The committee have very carefully investigated the mode in which this power has of late been exercised.

Lists and abstracts of the warrants for many years back have been preserved at the Home-office; but the committee have not thought it necessary minutely to pursue the investigation to an earlier period than to the year 1822, from which time only has any record of warrants been preserved at the Post office.

It appears that since 1822, 182 warrants have been issued, averaging about eight per annum; about two-thirds of these have been for the purpose of either tracing persons accused of offences, or of tracing property embezzled by suspected offenders; and the warrants have been issued whenever application has been made to the under secretary of state, upon grounds which have seemed to the principal secretary of state to justify such proceeding.

The application has generally been made either by magistrates or by solicitors conducting prosecutions, and these parties have been put in possession of any useful information thus obtained, but not of the original letters, which have been usually returned to the Post office, to be forwarded to their original address.

The detention of letters has been invariably refused in cases in which civil rights have alone been concerned.

The committee have not had any means of estimating in what degree the examination of letters thus detained has facilitated the administration of justice, the result never being reported to the Home-office, but it is known in some instances to have led to the apprehension and conviction of offenders, and to the recovery of property.

It may seem that the issue of six or seven warrants annually, in proportion to the 30,000 or 40,000 committals which take place in this kingdom, cannot be an efficient instrument of police; but, on the other hand, the issue of six or seven warrants upon a circulation of 220,000,000 of letters cannot be regarded as materially interfering with the sanctity of private correspondence, which, with these exceptions, there is not the slightest ground to believe has been ever invaded.

The second class of warrants has been issued by the Secretary of State at periods when the circumstances of the country have seemed to threaten public tranquillity.

The warrants for detention of letters of this class have scarcely, upon an average of twenty-one years, exceeded two annually in Great Britain; and though under some of the warrants not a single letter has been opened, under others many have been detained and examined.

It does not appear that from any one of these letters specific knowledge of great importance has been obtained. The information, however, which has been derived from this source has been regarded as valuable, and may have given better information upon danger apprehended in particular districts than could be derived from local observation, or than might be collected from the vague and exaggerated rumours which in periods of disturbance very usually prevail.

It is the concurrent opinion of witnesses who have held high office, and who may be most competent to form a sound judgment, that they would reluctantly see this power abolished; and possibly it might be thought to be even more convenient and requisite in time of foreign war than it is in our present state of peace.

The power of issuing warrants, which was first granted by the Irish act, 23 and 24 Geo. 3, cap. 17, to the Lord Lieutenant or other chief governor or governors of Ireland, has been very sparingly used, and the number issued does not average more than two annually, and these have been principally for the detection of suspected criminals.

The committee have examined into the case of the petitioner whose petition has been referred to them. It is true that Mr Mazzini's letters were for about four months stopped and opened, under the warrant of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and inspected by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, upon an apprehension that he was engaged in a correspondence having for its object designs which might be injurious to the tranquillity of Europe. Certain parts of the information thus obtained were communicated to a foreign government, in so far as such a communication appeared to be warranted, but without the names or details that might expose any individual then residing in the foreign country to which the information was transmitted to danger.

The committee are bound, in conclusion, to state that, having looked back to the proceedings of several secretaries of state during successive administrations more than twenty years, they have found the practice has been nearly uniform, that the power has been very sparingly exercised, and never from personal or party motives; and that, in every case investigated, it seems to have been directed by an earnest and faithful desire to adopt that course which appeared to be necessary, either to promote the ends of justice or to prevent a disturbance of the public tranquillity, or otherwise to promote the best interests of the country.

The committee leave it to the legislature to determine whether this power shall continue to exist, and have discussed such rules as have been suggested as guards upon its future exercise; namely, first, the concurrence of more than one of the high officers of state in the issue of each warrant; and, secondly, a better and more detailed record than is at present kept of the grounds upon which each warrant is issued.

They think that the responsibility will be more effective when resting upon the individuals who are mainly charged with the preservation of the peace and the prevention of crime in this country, than if it were divided with others; and a more detailed

account than is already kept of the grounds upon which each warrant is granted would frequently have the effect of leaving in the office a grave accusation, without affording an opportunity of reply or defence.

It is in evidence that, though bags have been sometimes detained and examined, upon a supposition that letters from them may have been abstracted, no letters from such bags have been opened; nor have any letters been opened at the Post office, except letters which, from defects in the direction, could not be forwarded to their destination, unclaimed letters, and letters detained by warrant from the Secretary of State.

It appears to have, for a long period of time, and under many successive administrations, been an established practice, that the foreign correspondence of foreign ministers, passing through the General Post office, should be sent to a department of the Foreign office, before the forwarding of such correspondence according to its address. The postmaster-general, having had his attention called to the fact that there was no sufficient authority for this practice, has since June discontinued it altogether.

MR. STURGE AND THE ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE.—The *League* newspaper of Saturday, contains the following letter from Mr Sturge:—

To the Editor of the *League*:

My attention has been called to an article in the *League* of last week. The writers of editorial articles obviously possess such an advantage over ordinary correspondents, that I seldom take any more notice of their aspersions than of other anonymous attacks; yet as I see, on reference to the paragraph advertised upon, that the condensed report does not convey a correct account of what I said, I may perhaps, claim the insertion of the following brief statement:—

I did not accuse any member of the Council of the *League* of advocating a fixed duty upon corn; and every candid reader will admit that, even as the paragraph is worded by the reporter, there is not an imputation of the kind.

Although I did not claim that credit to myself which would appear from the report, yet those members of the *League* best acquainted with its early proceedings know the "impracticable" part I took in their more private as well as public meetings respecting total and immediate repeal, when many of them honestly thought I was standing by this principle too tenaciously.

Had it not been for the observation of a previous speaker, who, on the day of nomination at the Birmingham election, greatly but unintentionally exaggerated my aid to its funds, I should not have referred to the *League* at all. I made an allusion to the anti-corn-law cause having come under the patronage of men who ridiculed the idea of total and immediate repeal, whilst it was unpopular with their class; and although I might have used an expression better adapted to convey my meaning than "bad company," yet I believe few will say that it is misapplied in designating such reformers and anti-monopolists as claim to be the "country" and the "public," to the exclusion of the millions who are deprived, by unjust laws, of their inalienable rights. The writer of the article in the *League* cannot surely be sincere in his expressions of regret that one to whom he imputes such motives and conduct as he charges upon me should have withdrawn from their ranks. So far from regretting the course I have taken at the recent election in this town, there is not a public act of my life that I regard with more unmingled satisfaction; and I wish that at all future elections in the United Kingdom the people would carry to the poll the men whom a majority have selected as fit and proper persons to represent them, though with the certainty of a still smaller relative number of votes than were recorded here. It is one of the best means of ascertaining who are their real friends amongst the electors, an important if not an essential step towards their obtaining justice.

The working classes naturally conclude that they who oppose monopoly in trade, and support monopoly in legislation, have small claim to their confidence; and they plainly see that their wishes are treated with equal indifference, contempt, and insult by each of the two parties who are contending for political power.

I am respectfully,

JOSEPH STURGE.

Birmingham 7th mo., 18th, 1844.

A few remarks by the editor of the *League* follow the letter, including the following inuendo, which we leave to make its own impression on our readers:—"There is such a thing as venturing on a prophecy, and then working to bring about its fulfilment. Some have foretold the failure of the *League*, and, that their prophecy may not fail, are now labouring to retard its progress, and, if possible, to prevent its triumph. Pergus O'Connor is one of this class. We hope Mr Sturge is not treading in his steps."

ART-UNIONS BILL.—Lord Monteagle's bill, entitled "An act for legalising Art-unions," enacts that all art-unions, and all members, contributors, subscribers, and officers thereof, shall be discharged and free from all suits and prosecutions, liabilities, &c., touching the purchase of any works of art, or the sales or distribution thereof by chance or lot. Provision is also made for the regular establishment and regulation of such associations by royal charter, to be granted on the approval of the board of trade.

COOLIE EMIGRANTS.—It is understood that her Majesty's government have finally resolved to convey a considerable number of Coolie labourers from the ports of Calcutta and Madras, to the colonies of Guiana, Trinidad, and Jamaica. The agents to conduct this emigration have already been appointed, and it is to commence after the 1st of October next. The ships are to be chartered in India by public tender, in conformity with the provisions of the Passengers act, and they will arrive in the colonies at a favourable period for obtaining cargoes for this country, while they will have besides the whole seaboard of America open to them.—*Times*.

TAHITI.—The *Hampshire Telegraph* relates the following anecdote:—It appears that Capt. Nicolas, in April, having a knowledge that the Frenchman in authority at Tahiti (M. D'Aubigny) had put Mr Pritchard in confinement, refused either to salute Admiral Thouars or visit him, unless he, in the presence of witnesses, or in writing, disavowed the act; and also insisted that Dupetit Thouars should express his regret that this D'Aubigny had insulted the British standard by trampling on it, and glorying he had put it where it ought to be—in the dirt. After some hesitation, these concessions were granted; and the salute was fired and visit made, accompanied by Captain Lord G. Paulet and Commander Hamond, the latter of whom acted as a sort of second between the combatants."

Intelligence has reached Constantinople of a signal defeat having been recently experienced by a corps of the Russian army, of 40,000 men, in Daghestan, by the Circassians, under the command of the famous Schamil, in which it is said that the latter captured a great number of prisoners, including 200 officers and two general officers, besides all the guns and war materiel.

ENGLISH CONSULS IN JAVA.—OTRECHT, JULY 29.—The Netherlands government positively refuses to admit English agents in Java. The new English law on the sugar duties allows the importation of sugar, the produce of free labour, at a reduced duty; but, in order to enjoy this privilege, an English agent, residing on the spot, must sign a certificate of origin. The Netherlands government will rather lose the advantages of this reduction than admit English agents in its colonies.

A BALLOON AT CONSTANTINOPLE.—The turbaned inhabitants of Constantinople have been lately astonished by the ascent of a Mr Comaschi in his balloon. The sultan, all the ministers, the ambassadors, and half the population of the city, were collected to see the aeronaut take his flight. Mr Comaschi crossed the sea of Marmora, and descended in Asia, at a distance of forty miles from the place of departure.

Fourteen out of eighteen persons who were gathering sea-weed at Jersey, last week, perished during a gale.

The *Gazette des Tribunaux* states, on the authority of a letter from Berlin, that the Prussian government has come to a resolution to abolish imprisonment for debt in all cases.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

THE NEW ASYLUM FOR INFANT ORPHANS.—The first election took place on Monday the 29th ult., at the Hall of Commerce, London; and the friends of liberal principles, who have seceded from the "exclusive institution," rallied in large numbers with much spirit round the new asylum. The object of the two institutions might be thought the same, but there is this important difference:—The one receives children of all denominations to educate them according to the strictest discipline of the church of England; and the other, while giving religious instruction, imposes nothing which is not common to Christian faith and practice, reducing it in all its simplicity to the capacity of the mind of a child. At eleven o'clock, John Wilks, Esq., was moved to the chair, in the temporary absence of the Lord Mayor. He said, that it was a source of great delight to him that the chief magistrate of the city of London had recognised the demands of the great principle of religious liberty as connected with the very existence of this second institution for the relief of the infant orphan; and that, with Christian feeling, he had desired to become associated with a charity thus based upon a noble and catholic foundation. He (Mr Wilks) felt that he need say nothing to urge to vigorous effort and generous subscriptions the numerous friends around him. Dr Reed declared the poll to be open.—At two o'clock the Lord Mayor arrived, and expressed his regret that he had not been present at the opening of the election, urged upon all present to be active in pressing the distinctive claims of the new charity upon the notice of the true friends of the orphan in the city of London and throughout the country, feeling persuaded, as he did, that the public required but to be aware of facts, to induce them to support so worthy and righteous a cause. Dr Reed announced the names of five successful candidates, one of whom had come in under peculiar circumstances, having been withdrawn from another charity, voluntarily throwing up 8,000 votes upon conscientious principles. Votes of thanks having been passed to the Lord Mayor, Lord Dudley Stuart, David Salomons, Esq., and others, the meeting was dissolved.

LONDON PRACE SOCIETY.—This society continues to avail itself of frequent opportunities to make known its principles and objects, by means of popular lectures and meetings. Three of these have been recently held in the metropolis. At Plaistow, in the Temperance hall, a lecture was delivered by Mr Miall, of Austen street. In Mare Street chapel, Hackney, a lecture was delivered on the 24th ult., by Mr John Stock, of Chatham; and a public meeting was held on the 31st, in Brunswick chapel, Mile End, John Scooble, Esq., in the chair. On each occasion, a number of signatures to the society's declaration were obtained.

THE DUKE OF SUSSEX'S LIBRARY.—The trustees of the British Museum have made great acquisitions at the recent sale of the library of his Royal Highness the late Duke of Sussex. The number of lots purchased for the library of the British Museum is 1,150, being rather more than 2,000 volumes, at an average expense of 30s. per lot, or 17s. per volume. They consist of editions of the Scriptures in various languages, and criticisms on the text; also the

fathers of the church, and other theological writers. Amongst them are many books of the greatest importance to the theological student, but which, owing to their rarity or high price, are unattainable to the many.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Immediately after the adjournment of parliament, Bellamy's rooms, the Vote office, and a considerable portion of the lobby are to be pulled down, to afford room for the improvements about to be commenced for the approach to St Stephen's hall. The ancient crypt of St Stephen's chapel is to be cleared and entirely restored, that part of the former houses of parliament not having received any considerable injury when those houses were destroyed by fire some years back. The cloisters, remarkable for what remains of their original architectural beauty, as well as the crypt, are intended to be restored to their primitive state.

THE MINISTERIAL WHITE BAIT DINNER.—On Saturday last her Majesty's ministers had their annual white bait dinner at the Crown and Sceptre tavern, Greenwich. The Waterman's steamer, No. 12, was specially engaged for the occasion. The party embarked at Hungerford about six o'clock, and proceeded down the river, receiving a salute on passing the General Steam Navigation company's yard at Deptford, and arrived at the tavern in twenty-eight minutes, where an excellently arranged floating pier led into the house, by which means landing was effected without inconvenience from the weather, which was squally. All the ministers were present.

A COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL was held on Wednesday. The report of the committee on steam-boat piers recommended the erection of a two-arched pier at Blackfriar's bridge, as a landing place, and requested power to lay a plan before the court. In the course of discussion, the Lord Mayor said that all the landing piers in the river are bad—made of rotten barges. The report was adopted.

GRAVESEND STEAM BOATS.—The new bye-laws and rules about to be passed, for regulating the number of steam-boat passengers according to the tonnage of the different vessels, have excited considerable alarm among the rival steam-boat companies at Gravesend, who will, it is thought, be compelled to increase their prices, in order, if possible, to make up for the losses that must ensue upon the intended limitations in the number of passengers. It was the overcrowding of the boats on Sundays that made up for the every-day losses.

LONDON WEATHER.—"H. P." writes as follows, in Monday's *Times*, on the state of the weather during the past week:—

On Sunday last I remarked upon the unusually "steady" state of high temperature, and now I have to record its unsettled state since that day. The barometer on the 28th ult. was at 30.12, falling until the 31st, when it stood at 29.50; thence ascending to 29.85, at which point it stood on the 2nd inst, when it suddenly fell, until it reached at eleven o'clock last night (Saturday) 29.38, making an extreme difference since Sunday last of nearly three-quarters of an inch, indicating severe weather in some parts. During this week the electric currents have produced many showers and a chilly atmosphere, which has been induced by the negative state of electricity, and is more sensibly felt than extreme cold. During the night, as well as yesterday, the squalls were in London severe, but not so much so as may be feared, from the great depression of the mercurial index, to have occurred in distant parts. The barometer indicated this morning a rise, and now stands at 29.75. The night thermometer was, on the 1st, as low as 49.5, and the shade day temperature 62 degrees, although it had averaged the previous week 80 degrees of Fahrenheit.

ARRIVAL OF THE IOWA INDIANS IN LONDON.—A party of Indians, of the Iowa tribe, whose hunting grounds are some hundreds of miles west of the Mississippi, arrived in town on Friday night, from Liverpool, where they debarked from the Oxford, American packet-ship, on Monday. The party consists of the aristocracy of the tribe, and includes the principal chief of the Iowas, the "great medicine," or "mystery man," who, as his title implies, is the "medical adviser" of the tribe, and who is an attendant on the party in case of sickness or accident; a third chief, five "braves" or warriors, four squaws or wives, a little boy and girl, and a "papoose," or infant. The party bring with them an immense quantity of baggage, independent of their camp equipage, wigwams, rifles and other arms, bows and arrows, canoes, and a splendid wardrobe.

THE NEW ZEALAND COMPANY.—A special general meeting of the New Zealand Company was held on Wednesday, to receive a report from the directors on the result of the parliamentary inquiry. With reference to the committee, which has been sitting during the present session, and their report, the *Morning Chronicle* says:—

With the consent of government a committee was named, of which two-thirds consisted of their own political supporters. Lord Howick was placed in the chair. Mr Hope, the under secretary for the colonies, was the formal representative of his office in the committee, and Mr Cardwell was added, in order to supply his deficiencies. The proceedings were conducted with a more than usual resemblance to the trial of an issue between two parties. The company put in a printed statement of its charges against the office, and a vast mass of documents in support of its statements. The Colonial office put in a printed answer. The report of the committee is its judgment on the matter thus litigated before it. And it is hardly possible to conceive a more thorough, clear, and well-reasoned condemnation, both of the general policy of the government, and of its treatment of individuals, than is here given under the sanction of Lord Howick's acknowledged integrity and complete acquaintance with colonial affairs, and of a decided majority of a committee mainly composed of political partisans of the minister whom they condemned.

PROVINCIAL.

THE ASSIZES.—INCENDIARISM.

Many trials for incendiarism have taken place at Ipswich; the accused in most cases being found guilty. The most remarkable point in these trials is the extreme youth of most of the culprits. Thus, on Thursday week three boys were tried, one sixteen years old and another eleven, who were convicted, and a third, thirteen years of age, who was acquitted. On Friday, a boy aged eleven, and another thirteen, were found guilty, whilst one of sixteen was acquitted. On the following day, two youths, of sixteen and eighteen, were convicted, and another of seventeen tried and acquitted. On Monday a lad of fifteen was acquitted on a charge of arson, and another, aged eighteen, of sending a threatening letter.

On Friday, Edward Botwright was found guilty of firing a barn and out-buildings at Sotterley. A letter written by the prisoner was picked up in the farm yard, and read in the light of the burning barn, by the son of the prosecutrix, to whom it was addressed. It threatened vengeance against him and other farmers—"Their will be a slaughter made amongst you verry soone. I shoold verry well like to hang you the same as I hanged your beastes." The prisoner had, in fact, hung some of the beasts.

On Monday, the last day of the assizes, judgment was passed on the convicted prisoners, seventeen in number: they were sentenced to be transported for terms varying from seven years to the duration of life. The sentences on the younger prisoners were in most cases merely nominal, as, in return for fire-raising, they are to receive that education and attention which, bestowed on them earlier, might perhaps have made them good citizens instead of incendiaries. The majority of the prisoners tried were grossly ignorant.

The Ipswich grand jury, having had their attention drawn by the judge to the state of the calendar, handed in a presentment on the subject, on Friday week. Their power of classification and analysis is on a par with their style of writing. They say that they cannot trace the prevalence of incendiarism to any one particular cause—

"We can, therefore, only present the following as our analysis of the cases which have come before us; of which there appear to be 17 committed by children or young persons under the age of twenty, and 16 by persons above that age—namely, 4 arising from inadequate employment, 13 from malicious feeling towards individuals, 11 from actual mischief and without any premeditated or criminal intention, 1 only by a party traveling about the country as a vagrant, and 4 for which we cannot discover any cause or motive whatever. * * * We have great satisfaction in presenting, that in very few cases the plea of inadequate wages has been instrumental to the commission of the offences with which the present calendar is so fearfully charged."

There have been several trials for incendiarism at other assizes. At Exeter, last week, Jane Netherton was found guilty of setting fire to a haystack belonging to Mr Pearce, at Ermington, and was sentenced to be transported for life. The woman's husband was in prison at the time of the fire, for some offence against the game laws; Mr Pearce having committed him. At the same assizes, on Monday, Bill Williams, aged fourteen, and Charles Thompson, aged twelve, were tried for firing a stack of hay at Awliscombe: Williams was found guilty, and Thompson acquitted.

Two men were found guilty at Durham, on Friday week, of firing several stacks of wheat and oats.

At Lewes, on Monday, a boy eight years old was tried for setting fire to a stack of corn, and acquitted. The boy, however, by his own confession, did commit the offence; for he had admitted the fact to the farmer whose stacks were fired, on promise of forgiveness if he told the truth. This was the only evidence against him, and of course the judge refused it.

At Norwich, on Wednesday, Robert English, aged twenty, was found guilty of arson at Wretton. There appeared to be no motive for the crime but a desire to imitate the evil deeds of others.

The Suffolk calendar contained thirty-four, out of fifty-five, for incendiarism and for sending threatening letters. The Norfolk calendar contains seven cases of incendiarism out of fifty-five, and none for threatening letters. The number of fires in Suffolk as far exceeds the number of fires in Norfolk as the commitments of the one county exceed the commitments of the other. The Norfolk assizes are not yet concluded.

The King of Saxony embarked on board her Majesty's steamer Lightning, on Sunday afternoon, and quitted our shores to return to his own dominions, *via* Hamburg.

VISIT OF MR T. S. DUNCOMBE, M.P., TO SHEFFIELD.—Mr Duncombe, on Monday, the 29th ult., made a public entry into Sheffield. The *Sheffield Independent* gives the following description of the procession:—

At noon, the town poured forth its thousands in the direction where the mustering was to take place. The procession itself was not remarkably large, but the number of spectators was immense. Arrangements were made that all the trades should cease work, and the consequence was almost a total cessation from labour, though but few of the trades joined, as trades, in the procession. So large a mustering, including both the procession and the spectators, we have never seen since the great procession in 1832, to celebrate the passing of the Reform bill. To estimate the numbers must be quite impossible, as the people were at no time collected in one place. We do not suppose, however, that on the route of the procession, and in the Corn exchange, the number could be less than three-fourths of the male population (men and boys) of this large borough, to whom must be added many thousands of women.

The procession, after parading various streets, was joined by Mr Duncombe about three o'clock, and proceeded to the Corn exchange, where the assembled multitude were addressed by Mr Duncombe, Mr Feargus O'Connor, and others. In the evening a party of about 400 took tea in the theatre, after which the public were admitted. Mr Briggs was called to the chair. Various addresses were presented to Mr Duncombe, from the Duncombe (formerly the Brougham) Sick club, from the united trades, the united grinders, and the chartists of Sheffield. The last address stated that the chartists had taken a new title "Duncombe's Own Brigade." Mr Duncombe then addressed the meeting amidst great applause, alluding to his defence in parliament of the rights of the working classes. Towards the close of his remarks, he said—

I am charmed with the spirit of concord and harmony which appears in Sheffield. I wish the same could be seen throughout England among all the trades, and among all the working classes. I wish we did not see every now and then some little party or coterie starting up, under such names as that of Complete Suffrage, and trying to disunite our ranks [cheers]—adopting the same principles by their own account. They say they adopt all your principles, that they agree to all the six points. Of what? Of the charter. It is rational, then, to say—Then why not call yourselves chartists [loud cheers]? It is a name, as I always said, and as I told them to their face, that has a charm for the working classes. It is associated with public liberty. It is associated with your dearest rights, and whenever I have an opportunity of giving advice, I say—Abandon not one iota of its principles [loud cheers]—but adhere to the principles and to the name [cheers].

Mr O'Connor followed with a speech *more suo*. In addressing Mr Duncombe he said:—

You are now our leader, not only in name, I hope, but in reality. There is but one Duncombe in our acceptance of the word—the polar star of public opinion, its pride, its hope, and expectation. You will never forfeit that pledge. That you will never betray the trust reposed in you, I am as confident as that I stand here. It has been the practice, in regard to myself, to pass resolutions of confidence and support while I remained faithful. If I had to frame such a resolution in regard to you, I could only say that you could not be made to swerve. We take you as you are, and, with the blessing of God, we will give you as long a tail in the next House of Commons as the comet [cheers].

He concluded by saying that "he would, with his own hand, enrol soldiers for the Duncombe brigade." After other speeches, Mr Duncombe retired, about half-past ten o'clock. In commenting on this gathering the *Sheffield Independent* says:—

"Everything conspired to show on Monday that Mr Duncombe was ill at ease. Instead of his habitually free and joyous demeanor, he wore the appearance of constraint. Instead of his naturally ready and dashing style of speech, which would undoubtedly have been heightened by the stirring spectacle before him, had he been at ease, his speeches were formal and flat. They contained no recognition, no acceptance of the leadership, with which Mr O'Connor so urgently presented him; and, when he retired from the meeting, so far from resembling the general of brigade giving a parting encouragement to his troops, it was not even with the ordinary courtesy of a good night, but he went away as silently as if he had no more to do with the gathering than the most unimportant personage in the place. We do not pretend to solve the riddle, or report rumours; but we venture to surmise that Mr Duncombe was by no means gratified by Mr O'Connor's company and eulogies; and that if he is to become the leader of chartism, he will prefer to be so by the election of the chartists themselves, and not by the gratuitous nomination of O'Connor."

CHANGE IN THE REPRESENTATION OF CIRENCESTER.—Lord Villiers, as Earl Bathurst's nominee for that borough, has succeeded Mr Master, the former member. The ceremony of electing the noble Lord took place on Friday, when he made a "stout" Peelite speech.

TERMINATION OF THE PITMEN'S STRIKE.—DURHAM, AUGUST, 1.—(From a Correspondent.)—I am exceedingly happy to inform you, that since I last wrote, the pitmen's strike seems to be at an end. The men are going in in numbers, and I have no doubt, from what I hear, on the best authority, that in another week all the collieries will be in full operation.—*Shipping Gazette*.

GRAND ARCHERY MEETING AT YORK.—This meeting of the friends of sports of by-gone days, took place on the race-course at York, on Thursday last, when between sixty and seventy bowmen, from different parts of the kingdom, contended for the following prizes:—A vase, value £65, and pieces of plate of the several values of £25, £15, £10, £10, and £10. A large piece of ground was staked out opposite the grand stand, on each side of which were placed fifteen or sixteen targets, each attended by a marksman, and the number of competitors amounted to between sixty and seventy. The grand stand was crowded with respectable individuals, of both sexes, and there was also a numerous attendance of persons on the course, both in carriages and on foot. The weather, however, was exceedingly unfavourable for the sport, heavy showers of rain falling at intervals during the whole of the day, accompanied with wind.

AMELIORATION OF AFRICA.—We intimated in our last paper that a private meeting had been held on the previous Wednesday, of gentlemen favourable to Mr Jamieson's proposed plan for opening a commercial intercourse with Central Africa. We understand, however, that Thomas Blackburn, Esq., was called to the chair, and that Mr King, the surgeon of Mr Jamieson's steamer, the *Ethiopia*, attended to answer any queries that might be put to him relative to Africa, and the enterprise he was about to re-engage in. He had formerly been nearly four years continuously upon the coast of Africa in the *Ethiopia* steamer, and had accompanied Captain Bacroft in exploring the Benin river, and in ascending the Niger to near Bus-

sah, where Mungo Park is supposed to have perished—in again ascending that river to succour H.M.S. *Albert*, in distress upon it, and subsequently in exploring the Old Calabar and cross rivers. He is of opinion, from the friendly disposition of the natives in the interior of Africa, and the desire they show for commercial intercourse, that a lasting commerce might in a few years be formed, if regular annual trading visits were made to them, and a market thus formed for their surplus productions. It was stated that, in order to accomplish the ascent of the Niger this year, it was indispensable that a steamer should sail without delay; and Mr Jamieson had prepared the *Ethiopia* for immediate despatch with this view. To cover the excess of outlay over returns which may, for a time at least, occur from this attempt to open commerce on the Niger, it has been proposed to raise a guarantee fund. To this fund subscriptions to a considerable amount had been commenced in London, and a very considerable addition was made to them by gentlemen at the meeting, of whom a committee was appointed in furtherance of the object. The *Ethiopia* sailed yesterday se'nnight. An adjourned meeting (which was also private) was held on Wednesday last, and was attended by Thomas Blackburn, Esq., I. B. Cooke, Esq., and other gentlemen, for making arrangements connected with the enterprise contemplated by Mr Jamieson.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

A COURT-MARTIAL was held on Wednesday and Thursday, at Devonport, to investigate charges against Lieutenant Edward Evans Gray, arising from the complaint of the French government that, on the coast of Africa, in July, 1842, he improperly boarded the French vessel *Luis d'Albuquerque* (a suspected slaver), then sailing under French colours. The technical charges were—first, disobedience of orders; second, neglect in not stopping the search; and, third, neglect in permitting a cask of wine to be received into his vessel, the *Bonetta*, from the *Luis d'Albuquerque*, without payment properly secured, and other minor irregularities. The defence was, that Mr Gray only visited the ship (which exactly resembled a Brazil slaving vessel expected to be in the same quarter) in order to ascertain whether the nationality indicated by the flag was true, for appearances were very equivocal; and that the search was effected without his knowledge, under a misconception of his orders, and stopped as soon as he knew it; with testimonials as to discipline on board the *Bonetta*. The court decided that the first charge had been proved; that the second charge was not proved; and that the third charge was partly proved; sentencing Lieutenant Gray to be severely reprimanded, with a caution to be more particular in giving orders for the future.

A CAUTION.—A woman destroyed herself at Hereford last week, by swallowing about seventeen drops of essential oil of bitter almonds—a poison which is largely used to flavour pastry, and which has been stated by a high authority on toxicology to contain more prussic acid than the prussic acid of commerce.

THE ARTESIAN WELL AT SOUTHAMPTON.—This well, though not completed, is a work of the greatest magnitude, vying with, if it does not surpass, the great well of Grenelle, by which Paris has lately been supplied. The depth of the Southampton well is at present 1,300 feet. The shaft descends through 778 feet of alluvium, 300 feet of clay similar to the London clay (which is a general substratum in the Southampton basin), and through another 100 feet of plastic clay, before it reaches the chalk, through which it descends 100 ft still further.

CHEAP PLEASURE RAILWAY TRIPS.—The Sunday school teachers of Dewsbury having determined to give their scholars a treat on the 25th of July, Dewsbury feast, the Wesleyans and their friends, to the number of 3,000, had a trip to Hull, whilst the scholars from Cleckheaton and other places, amounting to 2,800, went to Liverpool. When the train passed Wakefield for Hull, it was drawn by three engines, and consisted of fifty-seven carriages. On Saturday last about eleven hundred persons arrived in Liverpool by the cheap train from Preston, and after visiting the various objects of interest and curiosity in this neighbourhood, including, of course, the exhibition at the Mechanics' institution, they started for Preston on Monday evening at seven o'clock. The train consisted of forty-five carriages.

IRELAND.

SHOCKING CASE OF HYDROPHOBIA.—The *Cork Examiner* contains the following:—"Painful indeed is our duty to announce the death of Mrs Delacour, the second victim to this fearful malady in one family, within a short space of five months. The sad death of the young and graceful girl, the first victim, excited general horror and consternation; but who can describe the feeling with which the announcement of the second death will be received by the public? For more than five months the terrible poison lurked in the veins of this amiable lady, until it at last manifested its presence in that horrible agony which heralds the dissolution of the sufferer." A correspondent of the same journal, writing from Mallow on Saturday, says:—"An account of Mrs Delacour's death has reached town. She fell a victim to that dreadful malady against whose ravages science has, as yet, discovered no antidote—hydrophobia. It appears that the little dog which caused Miss Delacour's death, about five months since, licked Mrs Delacour's face at that time; and she since had a horror of the fatal disease."

THE IRISH STATE TRIALS.—We have been informed that the Judges will meet, upon their return from the several circuits, on Monday, the 26th inst., to consider of their judgment on the writ of error in this important case. The judgment will probably be delivered in the House of Lords on the following Wednesday or Thursday.—*Times*.

REPEAL ASSOCIATION.—The usual weekly gathering of repealers took place on Monday in the Conciliation hall; Alderman Arabin, lord mayor elect for Dublin, in the chair. The rent, including several hundreds from America and England, was announced to amount to £1,300 9s. 7d. for the past week. Mr D. O'Connell stated that the following day (Tuesday) was his father's birthday, when he would enter his 69th year.

SCOTLAND.

The King of Saxony visited Inverary and its vicinity last week; whence he proceeded to Oban, to embark in a steamer for the islands of Staffa and Iona.

The foundation-stone of the public baths at Edinburgh was laid on Monday, with masonic honours, by Lord Glenlyon, grand master for Scotland. In the evening there was a soiree. At this entertainment a testimonial was presented to Mr Simpson, the eminent lecturer, by his friends and admirers. Lord Panmure has subscribed £50 to the public baths of Dundee.

The strike of the Lanarkshire miners continues, with no prospect of an early close. The number of men on strike is about seven hundred. It is said that they were so provident as to count the cost before they struck; and they are now supported by the other workmen of Scotland.

GLASGOW EMANCIPATION SOCIETY.—On Thursday the tenth anniversary meeting of the friends of slave emancipation was held in the City hall, Candle-riggs, about half-past seven o'clock. Mr W. Anderson officiated as chairman, and was surrounded on the platform by Mr George Thompson, Dr Burns of Paisley, Dr Ritchie of Edinburgh, Mr George Jeffrey of Glasgow, Mr Kennedy of Paisley, Professor Wright of America, and other leading supporters of the anti-slavery cause. The meeting was one of the largest and most respectable description, and included a number of the fair sex. Mr Murray, secretary, read the annual report of the association, which, amongst other topics, referred to the Free church of Scotland, and its acceptance of money from slave-holding members of churches in America. Dr Burns was then introduced, and was received with loud cheering. After a few introductory remarks, he proceeded to move and support the report read by Mr Murray, and to state one or two exceptions which he took to part of it. He could not agree with that part which congratulated the society on the flourishing progress of the anti-slavery cause in the United States, but went on to show that slavery existed, and ramified itself from one end of America to the other, and that it had completely entrenched itself in the Republic, from Maine to Mexico. Prejudice in favour of slavery was increasing there, and he did not think the emancipation cause was progressing. Mr Kennedy, of Paisley, next addressed the meeting in support of the report. In doing so he spoke of the means by which slavery could be best done away in America, and alluded to the moral power necessary for this purpose. One of the best means, so far as affecting the public mind in America was concerned, was in the hands of the Free church, and that moral power would be, their returning the money which they had lately received from slave-owners, or the money which might be conceived to have the contamination of slavery attached to it. This statement by Mr Kennedy was greeted by a volley of hissing and cheering, which continued for some time, and gave rise to a discussion in which Dr Burns, Dr Ritchie, the Chairman, and Mr Kennedy, took part. Mr Kennedy maintained that he was in order, and that he would be heard; in which he was supported by several members of committee. Explanations followed, on the part of Dr Burns and Mr Kennedy, the hissing and cheering still continuing. Mr G. Thompson also explained, and the discussion ceased. The meeting was afterwards addressed in eloquent and stirring terms by Professor Wright, from America, who gave an encouraging account of the abolition cause in the States, and the meeting broke up at rather a late hour in the evening.—*Glasgow Saturday Post.*

FESTIVAL AT KILMARNOCK IN HONOUR OF HENRY VINCENT.

The friends of complete suffrage, and the inhabitants of this town generally, anxious to celebrate their late election contest in the person of their late candidate, Mr Henry Vincent, invited that gentleman to a public entertainment on Friday last. Mr Vincent arrived by the train from Glasgow on Thursday evening, and was met, on his arrival, by a large concourse of people, who welcomed him by hearty cheers; and at nine o'clock he was conveyed to the Croft hall, which was crowded to excess. He very briefly addressed the meeting, thanking the people for their kindness.

THE SOIREE

took place in the large hall at the George inn, on Friday evening. Upwards of 500 ladies and gentlemen were crowded into the building; and a more respectable, intelligent, and enthusiastic assembly we never witnessed. At the hour appointed for commencing proceedings, Bailie Craig, accompanied by Mr Vincent, John Dunlop, Esq., of Brockloch, Bailie Turner, of Thrusgrove, near Glasgow, the committee, and other friends, entered the platform. Mr Vincent's reception was enthusiastic in the extreme, proving how heartily the audience approved of the policy of the late contest, and the importance of boldly carrying out complete suffrage principles.

Bailie CRAIG was called to the chair. After a short speech, expressive of the pleasure he felt in presiding over the meeting, he stated that the object of the assembly was to evince their high admiration

and affection for their talented and patriotic guest, Henry Vincent [loud cheers]. He regretted that they had not assembled at the close of a session of parliament to welcome Mr Vincent as their parliamentary representative [great cheers]; but he looked back with pride upon their late contest, and could say that Mr Vincent had been defeated by the foulest and most dishonourable means [loud cheering]. Kilmarnock was girding on the armour for a more important struggle yet, and he did not despair of seeing their talented friend nobly discharging his duty to the people in the House of Commons [loud cheers]. As it was, Kilmarnock welcomed him back among them with the greatest pleasure [cheers].

JOHN DUNLOP, Esq., was loudly cheered. He proposed the first sentiment—"The Complete Suffrage Movement, and honour to the ninety-eight electors who so nobly recorded their votes in favour of Henry Vincent." Mr Dunlop supported this sentiment in a beautifully impressive speech, which was warmly applauded.

Mr OSBORNE (the chairman of Mr Vincent's committee) briefly returned thanks; and observed that the defeat at the late election was caused by a line of policy that the complete suffragists would never imitate. He could assure them that the men who voted for Mr Vincent were ready to do the same again; and that they formed a staff that would regenerate the borough [loud cheers].

Song—"Auld Scotland, I love thee," by Mr Young.

The CHAIRMAN then called upon Mr Brown to present Mr Vincent with a small testimonial on behalf of his friends in Kilmarnock.

Mr BROWN then addressed the assembly in a very powerful and eloquent manner. He traced the growth of the democratic principle in this country, and the assistance it had received from such men as Mr Vincent. He spoke of Mr Vincent's appearance in Kilmarnock, and the effect produced by his powerful addresses upon foes as well as friends. He said that the people of Kilmarnock would ever remember with gratitude that Mr Vincent was the first man who ever brought moral influence alone to bear in an election contest in that borough [loud cheers]. Mr Vincent had declared that he would not purchase victory by the debauchment of one man's mind [cheers]. He then proceeded to eulogise Mr Vincent for the zeal and fidelity of his public conduct, and for his moral bearing in society. He concluded a most impressive speech, by reading the following address:—

"TO HENRY VINCENT, ESQ.

"HONOURED SIR—With feelings of undissembled esteem, we venture to present to you an humble but durable memorial of your visit to us this day, accompanied by the free-will offering of your numerous admiring friends in this place. Although deep and lasting be our sensations of gratitude to you for honouring the parliamentary constituency of our burgh at the contested election of May 1844, and for diffusing among all classes, who were attracted by your unrivalled eloquence, a knowledge of the natural and constitutional rights of the great body of the people; yet we especially admire and honour you for your indefatigable, enthusiastic, and conciliatory advocacy, throughout Great Britain, of those pure principles of religion and benevolence which we confidently believe are destined speedily to elevate the universal family of mankind to a state of peace, prosperity, and happiness, of which the most highly-favoured tribes have, as yet, enjoyed only a faint foretaste.

"That you may long be enabled to sustain the dignified and triumphant career upon which you have entered; that you may constantly be encouraged by accumulating success, and that your laudable ambition may be early rewarded by a seat in the legislature of the empire, is the ardent prayer of the many thousands of genuine political and social reformers in and around this populous district.

"Signed in name, and by appointment of, public soiree,

"HUGH CRAIG, President.

"Kilmarnock, 2nd August, 1844."

Mr BROWN then placed the address in Mr Vincent's hands, amidst loud and repeated cheering; and accompanied it by a purse of gold and a silver medal. On the medal is the inscription—

To	Reverse.
Henry Vincent, Esq.,	Full, Fair,
With a Purse of Gold,	and
from his	Free
Admiring Friends	Representation.
In Kilmarnock,	
2nd August, 1844.	

Air—"A man's a man for a' that."

Mr VINCENT then rose. When the cheering had subsided, he proceeded to express his thanks for the honour they had conferred upon him. Much as he valued their personal kindness, or however his vanity might be fed by their marked expression of affection, yet his soul was the more stirred, because he believed that they were devotedly attached to the principles he had been honoured by propounding and defending amongst them [loud cheers]. Mr Vincent then gave an interesting but rapid sketch of his political career. He entered into a statement of the reasons which should induce complete suffragists to contest every election. He showed the hopelessness of expecting free trade, or any general or permanent improvement in our country, until the people were represented in parliament. Mr Vincent's speech made a great impression, and we regret that our space will not permit us to give it.

Bailie TURNER proposed "Civil and religious liberty."

Mr VINCENT gave "Full justice to Ireland, and the speedy liberation of Daniel O'Connell."

Mr RODGER gave "Mrs Vincent and her fireside," which was responded to by Mr VINCENT, and the important assembly separated at eleven o'clock, every one being highly delighted with the interesting ceremony they witnessed, and with the patriotic sentiments by which their enthusiasm had been aroused. Long will the night be remembered in Kilmarnock.

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

Dr Pusey is at present at Ilfracombe, inhaling the sea breezes.

The inhabitants of Heywood, Middleton, and Tonge, comprising 25,000 persons, are in the field for the representation vacant by the disfranchisement of Sudbury.

Lieutenant Munro, who shot Colonel Fawcett in a duel, is at present residing in Hamburg with his wife and family.

The committee of the House of Commons has given in a report against pulling down Westminster-bridge and building a new one.

MONUMENT TO THOMAS CAMPBELL.—We have much pleasure in stating that it is contemplated to erect a monument in Glasgow to Thomas Campbell, author of the "Pleasures of Hope."—*Glasgow Saturday Post.*

The facade of the chief entrance to the New Royal Exchange, London, has the following scripture quotation, cut in very legible characters:—"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof."

ENCOURAGEMENT TO EMIGRANTS.—An alligator, five feet long, was taken in one of the most fashionable streets of New Orleans on the morning of the 17th of May.

DOING WELL WITH "HIS OWN."—In the last four years the Duke of Newcastle has granted small allotments of land to upwards of 2,000 persons, and found the system to answer well.—*Oxford Chronicle.*

The use of hair-powder was universal until it was driven out of France by republicanism and out of England by famine. The flour used by the British army alone for whitening their heads was calculated to amount to the annual provision for 50,000 people.

"Peasants and serfs may flourish or may fade,
We've slaves enough to use the plough and spade;
But a fine pheasantry, the landlord's pride,
If poached upon costs much to be supplied."

—*New reading of Goldsmith's Lines.*

In England there are 1075 cotton factories, employing 183,243 hands; in Scotland 169 factories and 32,580 hands; in Ireland, 28 factories and 4011 hands.

The editor of an American paper requests those of his subscribers who never intend to pay to give him notice as soon as is possible. English editors may make the same request.

ALL THE DIFFERENCE.—The Duke of York said to Mr Coutts, "I think, sir, you have been my banker for more than twenty years." Coutts replied, "Your royal highness, I think, may be said to have been my banker during the whole of that time; as my money has been in your hands, not your money in mine."—*Lord Eldon.*

MORTALITY OF TAILORS.—In the registered causes of death of 233 persons, entered during 1843, in the eastern and western unions of the metropolis, under the general head of "Tailors," no less than 123 are registered as having died of disease of the respiratory organs.

A SLY SHAVER.—There is a barber, it is said, who lathers his customers with guano water. The consequence is, that if they be shaved ever so closely, they scarcely reach the end of the street until they are ready for another scrape!

CONFLICTING ESTIMATES.—In Edinburgh, last week, Miss Margaret Croall, daughter of the Edinburgh coach proprietor of that name, obtained a verdict against Mr Joseph Hutchinson, of Woodside, near Dalserf, Lanark, for "breach of promise;" but while she estimated the value of her faithless lover at £3,000, the jury knocked him down at £350!

A lad who calls "hot cakes—hot cakes!" around the town of Newport, last week opened his mouth so wide in bawling, that he was unable to shut it again, till having run through the streets to the residence of a surgeon he procured medical aid, and had his unfortunate jaw reset.—*Monmouth Mercur.*

Burke had the sole management of the *Annual Register*, at its appearance in 1758, and some subsequent years. He was paid £60 or £70 per annum for his labours; so very humble was this great man's commencement.

The *Aberdeen Constitutional*, after having been seven years in existence, published its last number on Friday, July 26. It was an ultra-tory and high church organ.

Several large woolen mills, in the district surrounding Huddersfield, are in the course of erection.

Died, on the 24th of July, after many parliamentary attacks, the franchise of Sudbury. Owing to internal corruption the franchise was obliged to undergo the amputation of two of its members, which, mortification having ensued, hastened its death. The pockets of 440 voters have been left to deplore the loss of the franchise. The deceased, in its lifetime, was not much respected, though its death will certainly leave a large void in the annals of bribery and corruption, which will require the united ability of parliament properly to fill up.—*Punch.*

The *New Zealand Gazette* publishes the following domestic drama, which was enacted at Wellington. Fishmonger—"Don't meddle with my lobster, my good man, or you'll have that finger of yours bitten." Stander-by—"Pooh! he'll not bite." Fishmonger—"Don't trust to that." Stander-by—"I tell you he would not if my dog's tail were between his nippers." Fishmonger—"Try it." Stander-by—"Here, Carlo, Carlo!" (Lobster snaps.) Dog (in agony) "Beauw-w-w-w." Fishmonger—"Hollo! where the —'s my lobster going?" (The dog vanishes round the corner of the street, and the curtain falls.)

Religious Intelligence.

ALNWICK, NORTHUMBERLAND.—On Wednesday, July 24th, Mr George Richards, late of Airedale college, was ordained pastor of the congregational church in that place. The services of the day were commenced with reading suitable portions of scripture and prayer, by Dr Hutcheson, of Warendford. The introductory discourse, containing a clear and scriptural exposition of independency, was delivered by Dr Hamilton, of Leeds. Mr William Froggatt, of Morpeth, asked the usual questions; and the ordination prayer, with laying on of hands, was offered by Mr Archibald Jack, A.M., of North Shields. Mr Walter Scott, S.T.P., president of Airedale college, delivered an affectionate and impressive charge to the pastor. In the evening, Mr James Parsons, of York, preached a most solemn and appropriate sermon to the people. Messrs Bowman, of Sunderland, Goodall, of Durham, and Bingley, of Middlesbrough, assisted in the devotional parts of the services. On the following day (Thursday) there was a tea party in the Odd Fellows' hall, when upwards of five hundred persons sat down to tea. And on Friday evening, all the children of the sabbath school and the young people of the bible classes were treated with tea; and afterwards were addressed by several ministers and sabbath school teachers. The whole of the services were of the most interesting character; and, it is to be hoped, will be followed with the blessing of the great Head of the church.

NEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, SYDNEY.—On Wednesday evening (April) a public meeting of the Rev. Dr Ross's congregation took place in Pitt Street chapel. This meeting rose out of one held at the end of February, to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the doctor's arrival in the colony, and to promote and aid the erection of the new building. At that meeting it was determined that an effort should be made, in the then ensuing month, to collect a sum sufficient to pay off the residue of the debt incurred by the purchase of the land and the commencement of the new church. On Wednesday the required sum, £194, was duly paid in, and the minister and congregation congratulated themselves with being, so far, out of debt. It appeared from the financial statement read to the meeting, that in three years £2,300 had been raised and expended for the above object, and that, besides there being now no debt upon the new place, there was also no incumbrance upon the old chapel. The building committee was re-organised, and it was determined immediately to proceed with the erection. This denomination of Christians does not receive government support; but we understand that the congregation raise a stipend for their minister equal to any officiating clergyman in the city.—*Sydney Herald*.

DERBY.—**LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.**—On Monday, July 22nd, the anniversary of the Juvenile Missionary Society was held at the London road chapel, when Mr J. G. Pike, of Derby, and Mr G. Goggerly, delivered addresses, on the subject of missions, to a large and deeply-interested audience of young persons. The annual public meeting was held on Monday evening, in Victoria street chapel. Mr J. Corbin gave a brief statement of what had been done by the united congregations on behalf of missions during the year; from which it appeared, that nearly £150 had been raised, upwards of £30 of which was raised by the young. The collections altogether amounted to £52 10s. 2d.

YARDLEY HASTINGS.—On Thursday, the 25th of July, the first anniversary of the erection of new school rooms in the above village was held. Mr Jas Sherman, of Surrey chapel, preached in the afternoon a very appropriate and interesting sermon to a crowded audience. About 300 persons took tea together in the school room. In the evening a public meeting was held in the chapel, at which the pastor (Mr W. Todman) presided; and the meeting was addressed by the following ministers:—Messrs J. Bull, A.M., Newport Pagnell; J. Jukes and W. Allott, of Bedford; and J. Sherman, of London. The collections on the above occasion, and promises of further assistance, amounted to £70. If this can be made £100, a kind friend has further promised to aid in obtaining another £50, which will then leave a debt of only £50. It is only little more than fifteen months since Mr Todman commenced the erection of these schools, costing £400, and already £270 has been raised. Not less than seventy of the agricultural poor in the congregation have contributed, both last and this year, 2s., 3s., and in some instances 5s., to the building fund.

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST ASSOCIATION commenced its ninth annual assembly, in Lever Street chapel, Manchester, on Friday morning, July 26, when Mr E. Darke was elected president, Mr R. Eckett was elected secretary, and Messrs H. Bruden and M. Bewick were appointed sub-secretaries. On Monday evening, the preachers to be admitted into full connexion were publicly examined by the president; on which occasion they gave an account of their conversion to God, stated their motives for devoting themselves to the work of the ministry, and declared their approval of the doctrinal opinions and of the connexional and other regulations adopted by the Wesleyan Methodist Association. The brethren were then proposed to be admitted into full connexion, and, by the votes of the members of the annual assembly, given in the presence of the congregation, they were recognised as received into full connexion. On the following evening, Mr J. Peters, ex-president, delivered an excellent public address to the preachers who had thus finished their term of probation. On Wednesday evening, the Lord's supper was commemorated by the members

of the annual assembly, members of the society and of other Christian communities. The president presided, and addresses were delivered by Messrs R. Eckett, J. Molineux, and T. Townend. The service was highly interesting and profitable.

MAIDENHEAD.—Mr Thomas Davies, of Highbury College, has received, and accepted, a unanimous and cordial invitation to become pastor of the congregational church at Maidenhead, and will enter upon the regular duties of the pastorate about the last Sabbath in October.

LLANELLY, CARMARTHENSHIRE.—On the 17th of July, Mr Thomas Jones was ordained over the independent church assembling at Bryn chapel, Llanelly. Mr James Sylvanus introduced the service; Mr E. Watkin Canaan stated the principles of a Christian church; Mr David Rees asked the questions; Mr J. Evans, Three Crosses, offered the ordination prayer; Mr D. Davis, Pantley, gave the charge to the minister; and Mr J. Evans, Capel Sion, to the church. At two, the independent Sunday schools of the town assembled, and after an appropriate address from Mr J. Williams, Llangadock, they formed a procession, which consisted of 900 children under fifteen years of age, and of nearly as many above that age. After parading the town, the schools repaired to their respective places of instruction, where those under fifteen were rewarded for their diligence and good behaviour during the past year. In the evening, sermons were preached in the three Welsh chapels by Messrs Jones, Kidvelly; Evans, Capel Sion; Williams, Llangadock; Jenkins, Penygroes; Watkin, of Canaan; and Evans, Penbre. The Bryn congregation is the third colony planted by the mother church here, and Mr Jones is the third minister ordained during the last five years; and while the new chapels are filled to overflowing, and the new ministers remarkably blessed with success, the mother church was never more healthy, flourishing, and numerous than at present.

PORTSMOUTH, HANTS.—A meeting was held on Tuesday evening, the 30th of July, in Highbury independent chapel, St Mary street, Portsmouth, for the purpose of forming a congregational church in that place of worship, the congregation having greatly increased during the last three or four months. The persons who were to form it (twenty-three in number) had previously sent in a request, individually, and then collectively, to that effect, to Mr George Jones, their minister. The services were conducted by the neighbouring ministers, independent and baptist. Mr T. Cousins, of Portsea, delivered an address on the duties of church members, gave them the right hand of fellowship, and administered the Lord's supper, all the other ministers uniting. Mr Guyer, of Ryde, concluded with an address to the congregation.

WESLEYAN CONFERENCE.—The 101st annual conference of Wesleyan methodist ministers is now sitting in Birmingham. Mr Jabez Bunting was elected president by a large majority. At one of its sittings an interesting report from the Education Committee was read by Mr J. Crowther. It appeared that, including a grant from the centenary fund, about £12,000 had already been contributed. There had been 110 candidates for training as masters or mistresses, 42 of whom had been accepted, and sent to the Glasgow normal seminary. There had been an increase during the year of 143 Sunday schools, and 16,627 scholars. Of week-day and infant schools there were 183 for boys, and 109 for girls, and 40 for infants, containing 13,138 boys, 8,776 girls, and 3,349 infants; making a total of 25,463, and an increase of 4,659 children. The sitting of the conference, consisting of about five hundred ministers, is not expected to conclude before the middle of next week.

BIRTHS.

July 28, the lady of H. BURRELL, Esq., Thornage hall, Norfolk, of a daughter.

August 1, Mrs CHALLIS, Enfield, of a daughter, still-born.

August 2, the wife of FRANCIS BUCKELL, Esq., surgeon, Romsey, of a son.

August 2, at the chapel house, Market Drayton, Salop, the wife of Mr JOHN H. BARROW, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

July 27, at Argyle chapel, Bath, by Mr Slade, of Corsham, Mr THOMAS JAMES, of Westbury, Wilts, to JANE EMILY, youngest daughter of the late Mr Edmund SAYER, of Bath.

July 28, at the independent chapel, Endless street, Salisbury, Mr JOHN HILL, of Winchester street, to Miss SARAH WHITE, of the liberty of the Close, Sarum.

July 30, at the independent chapel, Faversham, FREDERICK ROGERS, of Boughton, tailor, to LUCY, daughter of — ANDREWS, of Boughton, wheelwright. This is the fortieth marriage celebrated in the above chapel.

July 30, at Handsworth, by Mr H. Woolley, GEORGE FREDERICK, eldest son of G. F. MUNTZ, Esq., of Ley hall, Staffordshire, M.P. for Birmingham, to MARIANNE LYDIA, third daughter of the late Wm Richardson, Esq., of Calcutta.

July 30, at the independent chapel, Stamford, by Mr William Peutney, Wm CROSSLEY, to Miss SUSAN HAND, of Collyweston, near Stamford.

July 31, at the independent chapel, at Throop, near Christchurch, by Mr Charles Wills, B.A., CHARLES PAYNE, Esq., of Salisbury, to SARAH, the only daughter of the late JOSEPH CRANE, Esq., formerly of Christchurch, surgeon.

August 1, by Mr T. C. Lemon, Mr H. STANGER, of Stratford, Essex, to MARTHA, eldest daughter of Isaac SPELMAN, Esq., of Westhall hall, Suffolk.

August 1, at the independent chapel, Masbro', by Mr W. H. Stowell, theological tutor of Masbro' college, Mr STEPHEN WHITE, of Rotherham, flax dresser, to Miss ELIZABETH SPENCER, of the same place. Also, Mr THOMAS LAMB, of Masbro', stove grate fitter, to Miss JANE GARFORTH, of Rotherham.

August 1, at Townhead Street chapel, by Mr Charles Larom, Mr GLOSTER Wm MARSHALL, High street, Rotherham, to Miss ELIZA WHITLEY, Queen street.

August 3, at the Abbey Lane chapel, Saffron Walden, by Mr Frederick Pollard, JOHN LACRY, to LYDIA REEVE, both of Walden.

DEATHS.

July 29, at Islington, late of Marlborough place, Kennington cross, R. DAVIES, Esq., in the 70th year of his age.

July 31, at Ewell, Surrey, JANE TAYLOR, third daughter of Mr J. H. HINTON, M.A., of London, in her seventeenth year.

August 1, at Wavertree, near Liverpool, in her 22nd year, ELIZABETH, wife of Mr S. B. MALKIN, late of Plymouth grove, Manchester, and eldest daughter of Mr William GILES, Jan., of Liverpool.

August 1, at Southend, suddenly, aged five months, LYDIA

FRANCES, the beloved and only child of J. B. GRAY, Esq., surgeon, Chelmsford.

August 2, Mr THOMAS EDKINS, aged 51, at 2, Coborn terrace, Bow road, London, late independent minister at Nailsforth, Gloucestershire. He sustained the pastoral office there for upwards of twenty-six years.

August 3, aged 28, ANN, third daughter of Mr R. HORN, Armistage bridge, near Huddersfield. Her end was peace.

August 5, aged 18, ELIZABETH ANNE, second daughter of Mr Samuel DEMP, of Topcroft hall, Norfolk.

Trade and Commerce.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, August 2.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—

Baptist chapel, North Bradley, Wiltshire.
Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Everton, Derbyshire.

BANKRUPTS.

ANDREW, JOHN, Maryport, Cumberland, late of Ramsay, late of Man, banker, August 9, Sept. 17: solicitors, Mr Edward Tyson, Maryport; Mr Cram, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; and Messrs Gregory and Co., Bedford row, London.

BOND, CHARLES, March, Cambridgeshire, leatherseller, August 8, Sept. 11: solicitor, Mr Jenkinson, Cannon street, City.

BRIGHT, BENJAMIN, 40, Wigmore street, Marylebone, victualer, August 14, Sept. 13: solicitor, Mr Shaw, 20, Basing lane.

HERON, EDWARD, South Blyth, Northumberland, ship owner, August 9, Sept. 17: solicitors, Mr Robert Weldon, North Shields, and Messrs Crosby and Compton, Church court, Old Jewry, London.

HERON, JAMES, South Blyth, Northumberland, ship owner, August 9, Sept. 17: solicitors, Mr Robert Weldon, North Shields, and Messrs Crosby and Compton, Church court, Old Jewry, London.

KEMP, THOMAS, and DAVIES, RICHARD, Aston-nigh-Birmingham, Warwickshire, builders, August 15, Sept. 10: solicitor, Mr Tarleton, Birmingham.

MAY, WILLIAM, Liverpool, and New Ferry, Cheshire, commission agent, August 13, Sept. 13: solicitors, Mr Cyrus Jay, Serjeants' Inn, London, and Mr Brown, Liverpool.

TREGGAR, ANN, and LEWIS, THOMAS GAUM, 96, Cheapside, City, pianoforte sellers, August 9, Sept. 11: solicitors, Messrs Lawrence and Plews, Bucklersbury.

WALKER, EDWARD, Newman street, Oxford street, auctioneer, August 9, Sept. 10: solicitor, Mr Church, Spital square.

WILLIS, JAMES, 1, Spring street, Portman square, greengrocer, August 12, Sept. 11: solicitors, Messrs Burrell and Paterson, White Hart court, Lombard street.

WYRILL, WILLIAM, Bradford, Yorkshire, ironmonger, August 16, Oct. 4: solicitors, Messrs R. and J. Lawrence, Old Fish street, London; Mr Morris, Bradford; and Mr Bond, Leeds.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.

MACARTER, ALEXANDER, Edinburgh, commission agent, August 8, 29.

DIVIDENDS.

J. Lynton, Cambridge, innkeeper; second div. of 4½d. in the pound, any Wednesday before August 19, on August 12, 13, and any Wednesday after October 5.—R. H. F. Williams and M. Wilson, Liverpool, merchants; seventh div. of 3d. in the pound, any Wednesday before August 19, August 12, 13, and any Wednesday after October 5.—P. Axmann and J. G. Christ, 4, Mark lane, City, foreign merchants; first and second divs of 2s. 6½d. in the pound on new proofs, and third div. of 2d. in the pound on all proofs, any Wednesday before August 19, August 12, 13, and any Wednesday after October 5.—T. D. Alderson, Great Marlborough street, and Warwick street, Golden square, pewterer; third div. of 2s. in the pound, any Wednesday before August 19, August 12, 13, and any Wednesday after October 5.—R. Mason and W. R. Scott, Leeds, booksellers; first div. of 7s. in the pound on new proofs, and second div. of 6d. in the pound on all proofs, any Wednesday before August 19, August 12, 13, and any Wednesday after October 5.—S. Churchill, Deddington, Oxfordshire, scrivener; first div. of 1s. in the pound on new proofs, and second div. of 2s. in the pound on all proofs, any Wednesday before August 19, August 12, 13, and any Wednesday after October 5.—W. B. Price and J. Edwards, Shrewsbury, bankers; third div. of 1s. in the pound, any Thursday.—W. Mills, Birmingham, upholsterer; first div. of 6s. 2d. in the pound, August 1, 8, 15, and any Thursday after October 5.—S. Rogers, Dale hall, near Burslem, earthenware manufacturer; third div. of 1s. 10d. in the pound, August 1, 8, 15, and any Thursday after October 5.—S. Bettison, Leamington Priors, Warwickshire, wine merchant; first div. of 3s. 1d. in the pound, August 1, 8, 15, and any Thursday after October 5.—M. and W. Johnson, Cheddle, Staffordshire, grocers; first div. of 16s. in the pound, August 1, 8, 15, and any Thursday after October 5.—T. Worinton, Burslem, Leicestershire, hosier; second div. of 3½d. in the pound, August 1, 8, 15, and any Thursday after October 5.—T. Spink, Hillam, Yorkshire, farmer; first div. of 1s. 3½d. in the pound, August 15, October 10, or any subsequent Thursday.—J. Chapman, Liverpool, hosier; final div. of 1s. 2½d. in the pound, any Monday.—J. Howarth, Lee mill, near Bacup, Lancashire, cotton spinner; first div. of 5s. 7d. in the pound, August 7, and following Wednesday.—Whitmore, Wells, and Whitmore, Lombard street, bankers; fourth div. of 3s. 6d. in the pound, any Wednesday.—J. W. Showell, Birmingham, bookseller; further div. of 6d. in the pound, any Thursday.—W. W. Davies, Bristol, and Ebbw Vale and Sirhowy, Monmouthshire, iron master; second div. of 10s. in the pound, Aug. 7, 14, October 9, or any subsequent Wednesday.—J. Harford, Bristol, and Ebbw Vale and Sirhowy, Monmouthshire, iron master; first div. of 2s. in the pound, August 7, 14, October 9, or any subsequent Wednesday.

Tuesday, August 6.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—

Union chapel, Bosham, Sussex.
Wesleyan Methodist chapel, Selby, Yorkshire.

BANKRUPTS.

CARTER, THOMAS, jun., Walsham, Leicestershire, butcher, August 24, September 14: solicitor, Mr John Smith, Birmingham.

EDWARDS, ROBERT, Aberdovey, Merionethshire, draper, August 20, September 6: solicitors, Mr Oliver, Old Jewry, London, and Mr David Evans, Liverpool.

JACKSON, RICHARD, and YALE, RICHARD, Leeds, machine makers, August 16, October 4: solicitors, Messrs Parkes and Co., Bedford row, London, Mr Tyas, Burnley, and Mr Blackburn, Leeds.

MANLEY, ELIZABETH, Chapel street, and of 70, Strutton ground, Westminster, boot maker, August 14, Sept. 13: solicitors, Messrs Turner and Hensman, Basing lane.

OGDEN, ABRAHAM, Spotland, Lancashire, sizer, August 16, September 11: solicitors, Mr Samuel Appleby, Harpur street, London; and Mr Robert Taylor Grundy, Bury.

SAFFRAN, HENRY JOSEPH EDWARD, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, cloth merchant, August 16, October 4: solicitors, Mr Alfred Jones, 15, Size lane, Bucklersbury, London; Mr E. L. Heap, Huddersfield; and Mr Sykes, Leeds.

SMITH, GEORGE CHARLES, Kensington, Middlesex, builder, August 14, September 13: solicitor, Mr Dampier, 48, Lincoln's Inn fields.

TURNER, THOMAS, Sheffield, grocer, August 16, September 27: solicitors, Messrs Sudlow and Co., Chancery lane, London; and Messrs Smith and Wightman, Sheffield.

TRAVITT, JOHN, Wheaton Aston, Staffordshire, butcher, Aug. 16, September 17: solicitor, Mr John Corser, Wolverhampton.

WYRILL, WILLIAM, of Bradford, Yorkshire, ironmonger, August 16, September 27: solicitors, Messrs R. and J. Lawrence, Old Fish street, London; Mr Morris, Bradford; and Mr Bond, Leeds.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

RANSON, JOSEPH, Perth, glass merchant, August 13, September 3.

DIVIDENDS.

G. Wood, Ingram, Northumberland, banker; first and final div. of 1s. 7d. in the pound, payable August 7 or any following

Wednesday—G. Graves, Skinburness, Cumberland, innkeeper; first and final div. of 6s. in the pound, payable August 10, or any Saturday after October 5.—J. Bird, Maryport, Cumberland, druggist; second and final div. of 1d. and 23-40th parts of a penny, payable August 10, or any Saturday after October 5.—T. Bell, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, grocer; first, second, third, and final divs of 15s. in the pound, payable August 10, or any Saturday after October 5.—T. J. Shaw, Bishopwearmouth, mercer; first div. of 4s. in the pound, payable August 10, or any Saturday after October 5.—M. Williams, Merthyr Tydvil, grocer; first div. of 4s. 3d. in the pound, payable August 7, or any following Wednesday.—R. Phillott, Blagdon, scrivener; first and final div. of 3s. 1d. in the pound, payable August 7, or any following Wednesday.—G. Barnes, Portsea, innkeeper; first div. of 5s. in the pound, payable August 7, and the following Wednesday.—W. Walford, Great Winchester street, City, merchant; first div. of 1s. 9d. in the pound, payable any Saturday.—Henry Cotman, Norwich, draper; final div. of 6d. in the pound, payable any Saturday.—G. Butcher, Holborn hill, City, china and glass dealer; first div. of 4d. in the pound, payable any Saturday.—William Browne Cockerill, Reedham, Norfolk, butcher; first div. of 9d. in the pound, payable any Saturday.—Edmund Henry Labatt, Mincing lane, City, merchant; final div. of 1d. in the pound, payable any Saturday.—G. Ewart, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, auctioneer; first and final div. of 3s. 3d. in the pound, payable August 10, or any following Saturday.—J. Ewart, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, auctioneer; first and final div. of 4s. 2d. in the pound, payable August 10, or any following Saturday.—H. Lonsdale, Sheffield, grocer; final div. of 1s. 9d. in the pound to those who have not received a former div., payable on and after August 12.—P. T. B. Hemmings, Wakefield, worsted manufacturer; final div. of 4s. 6d. in the pound to those who have not received a former div., payable on and after August 12.—J. Broadhead, Stubbins, Yorkshire, woolen cloth manufacturer; first and final div. of 2s. 5d. in the pound, payable on and after August 12.—C. Savill, Romford, Essex, grocer; first div. of 7d. in the pound, payable any day between Aug. 5 and 17.—W. Street, Rickingham Superior, Suffolk, grocer; sec. div. of 1s. 7d. in the pound, payable any day between September 5 and 17.—J. West, High street, Shoreditch, grocer, div. of 6d. in the pound, payable any day between August 5 and 17.—C. Chambers, Peterborough, Northamptonshire, liquor merchant, first div. of 1s. 9d. in the pound, payable any day between August 5 and 17.—N. Beard, Beech street, Barbican, leather seller, first div. of 1s. in the pound, payable any day between August 5 and 17.—J. Freeman, Ipswich, woolen draper, final div. of 2s. 11d. in the pound, payable any day between August 5 and 17.—J. Milner, Brook street, New road, engine manufacturer, first div. of 4s. in the pound, payable any day between August 5 and 17.—J. Johnson, Anston, Yorkshire, first div. of 1s. in the pound, payable on and after August 12.—W. Butterworth, Peckham, Surrey, corn merchant, sec. div. of 7d. in the pound, payable any Wednesday.—J. and T. Whitelaw, Litchfield street, Soho, and Store street, Bedford square, carpenters, first div. of 1s. 1d. in the pound, payable any Saturday.—C. Killick and J. Sudd, Blackman street, Borough, paper stainer, first div. of 2s. 6d. in the pound, payable any Saturday.—J. Tubb, Basingstoke, Hampshire, draper, first div. of 2s. 9d. in the pound, payable any Saturday.

BRITISH FUNDS.

A depression in the value of the public securities has taken place during the past week of from one half to five-eighths per cent. In the unfunded debt there has been also a trifling depression since Monday last.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½
4 per cent. Reduced	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½	100½
5 per cent. Reduced	103	103	103	103	103	103
2½ per cent. Reduced	102	102	102	102	102	102
Long Annuities	124	124	124	124	124	124
Bank Stock	200½	200½	200½	199½	199½	200
India Stock	286	286	286	285	285	285
Exchequer Bills	77pm	77pm	77pm	78pm	77pm	79pm
India Bonds	96pm	97pm	97pm	—	97pm	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian	115	Mexican	36
Belgian	103½	Peruvian	26
Brazilian	84½	Portuguese 5 per cents	82
Buenos Ayres	36	Ditto 3 per cents	43½
Columbian	131	Russian	120
Danish	89½	Spanish Active	23½
Dutch 2 per cents	61	Ditto Passive	5½
Ditto 5 per cents	101½	Ditto Deferred	12½

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham and Derby	—	London and Brighton	49½
Birmingham & Gloucester	113	London & Croydon/Trunk	19½
Blackwall	70	London and Greenwich	7½
Bristol and Exeter	80	Ditto New	20½
Cheltenham & Gt. Western	—	Manchester & B.	55
Eastern Counties	12	Manchester and Leeds	119
Edinburgh and Glasgow	—	Midland Connt	109
Great North of England	102	Ditto Quarter	—
Great Western	139	North Midland	102
Ditto Half	85	Ditto New	46
Ditto Fifths	25½	South Eastern	over 88
London and Birmingham	233	South Western	38½
Ditto Quarter Shares	—	Ditto New	—

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, AUGUST 5.

The arrivals of English wheat were small, and the weather having been showery during the past week, there is more firmness in the trade, and foreign wheat is generally held for some advance in price. The business transacted to-day has not been extensive, but the prices of this day week are fully maintained. The top price of town made flour was still unsettled; ship samples were not lower than on Monday. The supply of barley from abroad being large, the trade is dull, and prices 1s. per quarter lower. Beans maintain last week's prices, and both white and grey peas are 1s. per quarter cheaper. The supply of oats is large, which causes the market to remain very much depressed for this article; there has been a slow, limited sale for this description of grain to-day, at rather lower prices.

Wheat, Red New	40 to 50	Malt, Ordinary	46 to 56
Fine	48 to 52	Pale	60 to 65
White	40 to 50	Rye	28 to 31
Fine	50 to 54	Peas, Hog	28 to 34
Flour, per sack	34 to 50	Maple	30 to 35
Barley	28 to 30	Butlers	39 to 38
Malting	30 to 35	Beans, Ticks	28 to 35
Beans, Pigeon	32 to 36	Wheat	15s. 0d.
Harrow	30 to 32	Barley	4 0
Oats, Feed	19 to 21	Oats	6 0
Fine	22 to 23	Rye	8 6
Poland	21 to 23	Beans	5 6
Potato	21 to 25	Peas	6 6

SEEDS.

There was an improved demand for rape seed to-day, and in partial instances a trifling advance was established. Canary seed was also the turn dealer, and more inquired for; whilst caraway seed, tares, &c., were held with much firmness at our quotations.

Linseed	per qr.	Cloyer	per cwt.
English, sowing	54s. to 56s.	English, red	52s. to 60
Baltic, ditto	—	Ditto, white	83 to 100
Ditto, crushing	40 to 42	Flemish, pale	48 to 50
Medit. & Odessa	41 to 43	Ditto, fine	56 to 110
Hempseed, small	35 to 38	New Hamb.	45 to 50
Large	—	Ditto, fine	56 to 110
Canary, new	52 to 54	Old Hamb.	38 to 44
Extra	—	Ditto, fine	54 to 106
Caraway, old	44 to 46	French, red	46 to 52
New	44 to 52	Ditto, white	—
Ryegrass, English	—	Coriander	15 to 18
Scotch	—	Old	—
Mustard	per bushel	Rapeseed	per last
Brown, new	10 to 16	English, new	22l. to 23l.
White	7 to 10	Linseed cakes	—
Trefoil	23 to 30	English	9l. 15s. to 10l. 10s.
Old	12 to 16	Foreign	6l. 15s. to 7l.
Tares, new	7 to 8	Rapeseed cakes	4l. 15s. to 5l. 0s.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, August 5.

The arrivals last week from Ireland were 12,341 firkins butter, and 5,155 bales bacon; and from foreign ports 5,723 casks butter. In Irish butter the dealings were comparatively few and limited in amount, as well on board as landed; Dutch sold slowly, and ended dull, at 80s. per cwt. Bacon, also, from the unfavourable state of the weather and better supplies, was in less demand; the transactions in singled sides only to a moderate extent, and prices the turn lower. The same remarks equally apply to bales and tierce middles. In hams no change worth notice. Lard in fair sale, and mostly at full prices.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, August 5.

There has not been much doing in hops, and we cannot notice any particular feature. The duty is not backed with any spirit.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, August 5.

The beef trade, owing to the supply proving more than adequate to meet the demand, was in a sluggish state, at, in most transactions, a decline in Friday's currencies of quite 2d. per 8lbs. A large portion of the inferior breeds left the market unsold. The importations during the week, at the outports, have amounted to 30 beasts from Germany and France, 13 from Holland, and 25 from Vigo; most of which have proved beneath an average quality. In the mutton trade a fair business was doing, and late rates were well supported. The lamb trade was dull, at a decline of 2d. per 8lbs. For calves there was a steady inquiry, and prices were rather higher. In pigs very few transactions took place, and the rates ruled about stationary.

Beef	2s. 8d. to 3s. 10d.	Veal	3s. 4d. to 4s. 4d.
Mutton	3 2 to 4 0	Pork	2 8 to 4 0
Lamb	3 8 to 4 8		

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

Beasts	Sheep	Calves	Pigs
Friday 767	11,350	414	270
Monday 3,309	33,970	197	310

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, July 29.

Inferior Beef	2s. 2d. to 2s. 4d.	Inf. Mutton	2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d.
Middling do	2 6 to 2 8	Mid. ditto	2 10 to 3 4
Prime large	3 2 to 3 8	Prime ditto	3 6 to 3 8
Prime small	3 2 to 3 4	Veal	3 4 to 4 4
Large Pork	2 4 to 3 4	Small Pork	3 6 to 3 10

Lamb, 4s. 0d. to 5s. 0d.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Aug. 3.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Coarse Meadow	75s. to 80s.	New Clover Hay	105s. to 126s.
New ditto	—	Old ditto	—
Useful Old ditto	84 to 88	Oat Straw	26 to 28
Fine Upland ditto	90 to 95	Wheat Straw	28 to 30

COTTON.

Cotton has been in fair demand throughout the week, which closes steadily at last week's quotations of American. Egyptian continues in demand, but being very freely offered, has declined 0½d. per lb. Brazil is heavy of sale at former rate. Surat is in moderate demand, and without change in price. The sales of the week amount to 36,730 bales, including 3,000 American on speculation, and 1,070 American with 50 Surat for export. 12,900 American, 270 Egyptian, 230 Pernama, 150 Maranhau, 190 La Guayra, and 100 Surat were forwarded unsold during last month.

WOOL.

We do not report any alteration in the trade this week; holders are firm in demanding the small advance in combing wools, which the consumers are yet unwilling to pay; consequently sales are but limited. Short wools continue to be ready of sale at full prices, and stocks at market small.

COAL EXCHANGE, July 29.

Stewart's, 23s. 6d.; Hetton's, 23s. 6d.; Braddyll's Hetton's, 23s. 9d. Ships arrived this week, 118.

GROCERIES.—TUESDAY, AUGUST 6.

SUGAR.—The market is heavy, and prices 6d. to 1s. per cwt. lower than on Friday last. 150 hhds Barbadoes sold at 60s. to 67s. for good to fine yellow; 57s. to 59s. for low to middling; and 53s. 6d. to 54s. 6d. per cwt. for inferior low quality. The total purchases amount to 400 hhds and tierces. In refined goods there was a fair business doing. Standard lumps selling at 75s. and brown Grocery lumps at 74s. per cwt. 4,600 bags Bengal, offered in auction, were nearly all bought in. Good brown sold 51s. 6d. to 53s. 6d.; middling yellow, 54s. 6d. to 56s. 6d. per cwt.

COFFEE.—260 bags Ceylon sold at a decline of 1s. per cwt.; good ordinary pale fetched 54s. 6d. to 55s.; and fine ordinary plantation sold at 65s. per cwt.; 108 Brazil Mocha, offered in auction, were bought in at 68s. per cwt. for low middling greenish yellow.

TEA.—There are not any public sales advertised. Good common Congous are selling at 11½d. to 1s. per lb. cash; common Twankay 1s. 2½d. to 1s. 3d. per lb.

Advertisements.

Published this day, price Threepence,

A LETTER to the PEOPLE of the UNITED KINGDOM on NATIONAL REFORMATION in CHURCH and STATE. By a CHRISTIAN REFORMER.
"All who would separate the church of Christ from the corruption of the state, ought to read this pamphlet."
AYLOTT and JONES, 8, Paternoster row.

The OPENING of the NEW INDEPENDENT CHAPEL at Winchmore Hill, will take place on **TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 1844**, when the Rev. J. HARRIS, D.D., the president of Cheshunt college, will preach in the Morning; and the Rev. G. CLAYTON, of Waltham, will preach in the Evening. Service to commence in the morning at eleven, and in the evening at six.

For the convenience of friends in town, omnibuses will leave the Flower Pot, Bishopsgate street, at half-past nine in the morning, also at four and half-past four in the afternoon, and set down passengers at the chapel.

A dinner will be provided, tickets 3s. 6d. each, which may be had until Saturday, the 10th instant, of Mr Sell, Winchmore hill, and of Mr Coventry, printer, Tottenham.

NATIONAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY,
39, Moorgate street.
The Committee are prepared to engage **THREE** additional TEMPERANCE MISSIONARIES for LONDON, on the plan of the City Mission. Applications, by letter, from parties properly qualified, and of irreproachable character, may be addressed (post paid) to the Secretary.—Testimonials will be required.

HENRY PIDDUCK, Jeweller, Silversmith,
Cutler, Watch and Clock Manufacturer, &c., Hanley, Staffordshire Potteries, has now a vacancy for an INTELLIGENT YOUTH as an Apprentice, who will have the advantage arising from a long Residence in London and Birmingham, and from extensive established connexions in the centre of a populous manufacturing district. Premium not under Sixty Guineas. Respectable references given and required.

FIFTY POUNDS REWARD.—The hard

Substance obtained by pressure from the Crude Cocoa Nut Oil is an essential ingredient in the PATENT COMPOSITE CANDLES; and, as EDWARD PRICE and Co. hold the Patents for this Process, and grant no licenses under them, it follows either that the imitation Composite Candles are entirely different from the Patent ones, or that the imitators are infringing the Patents. The first is generally the case; but to protect themselves against the possibility of the other, EDWARD PRICE and Co. hereby engage to pay a reward of Fifty Pounds to any workman or other person who may give such information respecting parties pressing Cocoa Nut Oil as shall lead to their conviction. The name of the informant will be kept strictly secret, and he need not take a prominent part in the proceedings, as all that E. P. and Co. require is the first clue to the discovery of the infringers, which they will then follow up for themselves. This advertisement is being published in every newspaper of any circulation in the United Kingdom.

The Candles are now so well known to the public, that it is hardly necessary to state here that they burn more brilliantly than the best wax, and give so large an amount of light, as to be cheaper, taking this into account, than the commonest Tallow Candles. They may be had of most of the respectable Tallow Chandlers throughout the kingdom; but purchasers must insist on being supplied with "PRICE'S PATENT CANDLES," otherwise they are liable to be deceived with some of the imitations, all called, like the real ones, "Composite." Those parties, really in the trade, who do not yet keep them for sale, are informed that they can purchase of the Patentees, or of PALMER and Co., Sutton street, Clerkenwell, any quantity, large or small, at the wholesale price; and that allowances are made in an increasing ratio to parties taking to the amount of £50, £100, £150, or £200, at a time; and a very large allowance indeed to parties taking so large a quantity as to enable them to become wholesale agents for an entire district.

Belmont, Fenchurch, July 24th, 1844.

A NEW NIGHT LIGHT.

CLARKE'S PATENT MORTAR LAMPS,
and PATENT LAMP MORTARS.—For elegance, simplicity, and cleanliness, this Night Light is very far superior to any hitherto submitted to the public. To Medical Gentlemen, Invalids, and all persons requiring a night light, this invention will prove invaluable, being the best, safest, and most economical ever produced; it will also be serviceable in halls and passages. It can be carried in perfect safety without extinguishing the light, supplying a desideratum that has long been felt. It is free from danger, uncertain burning, and the offensive odour and smoke arising from rushlights and other night lights, and so portable that it will be found a great comfort to Ladies or Invalids traveling.—Sold wholesale by PALMER and Co., Sutton street, Clerkenwell, and by the Patentee, 35, Albany street, Regent's park, London, and retail by all Ironmongers, Oilmen, Grocers, &c., in the United Kingdom. Price of the Lamps, 1s. 9d. each, and upwards, and the Mortars 6d. per box, 12, 10, or 8 Mortars in each, to burn, 6, 8, or 10 hours.

PRESERVES AND CONFECTIONERY.

The superiority of BETTS'S PATENT BRANDY, for Preserves and Confectionery, is testified by the fact that it is preferred to any other spirit by the most extensive Wholesale Confectioners in the Metropolis; for fortifying Home-made Wines it is invaluable; as an Ordinary Beverage it is congenial to the most delicate constitutions; and, as a Medical Stimulant, it is peculiarly adapted to persons of bilious or dyspeptic habits. Quantities of not less than Two Gallons, supplied at the Distillery, 7, Smithfield bars, in Stone Jars, at 18s. per gallon, exclusive of the price of the jar; and in Glass Bottles, at 20s. per gallon, Bottles and Case included.

Consumers of Brandy are respectfully informed, that J. T. BETTS, Junr., & Co. will not be responsible for any Bottled Brandy that is not protected against fraudulent substitution, by the PATENT METALLIC CAPSULES, made of pure and solid metal (not tin-foil), embossed with the words, "Betts's Patent Brandy, 7, Smithfield bars," to which attention is especially directed.

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BRUSH and SMYRNA SPONGES.—The Tooth Brush has the important advantage of searching thoroughly into the divisions of the teeth, and cleaning them in the most effectual and extraordinary manner, and is famous for the hairs not coming loose.—Is. An improved Clothes Brush, that cleans in a third part of the usual time, and incapable of injuring the finest nap. Penetrating Hair Brushes, with the durable unbleached Russian bristles, which do not soften like common hair. Flesh Brushes, of improved graduated and powerful friction. Velvet Brushes, which act in the most surprising and successful manner. The genuine Smyrna Sponge, with its preserved valuable properties of absorption, vitality, and durability, by means of direct importations, dispensing with all intermediate parties' profits and destructive bleaching, and securing the luxury of a genuine Smyrna Sponge. Only at METCALFE'S Sole Establishment, 130 R. Oxford street, one door from Holles street.

CAUTION.—Beware of the words "From Metcalfe's," adopted by some houses.

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Solicitors—Messrs Richardson and Smith, 28, Golden square.

Department of Medical Statistics—William Farr, Esq., General Register office.

Actuary—F. G. F. Nelson, Esq.

This office is provided with very accurately constructed tables, by which it can assure unsound lives on equitable terms. Similar tables enable the Society to grant increased annuities on unsound lives, the amount varying with the particular disease.

Members of consumptive families assured at equitable rates.

Healthy lives are assured on lower terms than at most other offices.

The first life assurance society commenced business in 1705, and the principles of life contingencies, understood at that time to a very limited extent only, have repeatedly undergone important changes and improvements; but till the establishment of this society in 1841 no attempt had ever been made to assure the lives of persons who suffer from disease.

The science of statistics has only within a recent period been

successfully applied to the duration and mortality of disease, and hence tables on the probability of these results could not have been formed; and it would evidently have been unsafe and hazardous for any society to have undertaken the risk of assuring the lives of persons afflicted with any particular malady. The statistical information, however, now collected, and in possession of this office, is of so great an extent as fully to warrant the extension of life assurance to such cases, and in fact to place the application of life assurance on diseased lives on a more secure basis than even that on healthy lives.

It is hoped that while kept clearly in view that this society, in common with other offices, will assure the lives of healthy persons, it is as yet the only one established to assure the lives of persons labouring under disease; and to this latter feature particular attention is directed.

In the first place, because it opens a larger field for business than all other offices can have unitedly; and in the

Second place, because that branch of assurance must from its own nature be less hazardous, and its principles rest on a more permanent foundation.

These are two highly important facts, and we shall enter into an explanation of each; and first, as to the prevalence of disease.

The period of life most important to an assurance office is that between 15—60 years of age, and in the following remarks we refer exclusively to this period of life.

It will be found that the deaths in the metropolis for the two years preceding 1842 were from all causes 30,518; and from consumption alone, 10,698; showing that more than one-third of the total deaths in that period of life takes place from the prevalence of a single disease; and if the same inquiry were instituted with respect to other diseases, such as asthma, dropsy, diseases of the head, heart, &c., it would be found that more than one-half of the whole population would, on medical examination, be refused admission into an assurance office. If the inquiry be carried to the principal towns in England, like facts are elicited—in Birmingham, Liverpool, and Manchester, the deaths from all causes per annum are about 5,023, while those from consumption are 1,988, forming considerably more than one-third of the whole. The same thing will be found to hold good in the large towns in Scotland, in six of which the deaths in a given period, from all causes, amounted to 23,078, those from consumption alone to 6,359, and from six important diseases 9,754; in the latter case forming more than 42 per cent. of the deaths from all causes. On reference to the returns from the city of Glasgow for 1836—1840 it will be found that the deaths in that period, from all causes, were 14,107, from consumption 4,067, and a list of five diseases 6,423, being more than 45 per cent. of the deaths from all causes.

The diseases here alluded to are such as exist in general in a chronic form, frequently for many years prior to death, but which, on a strict medical examination, would effectually exclude the persons so affected from the benefits of life assurance; and since it thus appears that a majority of the population is included in this class, the value and importance of the new feature of this society cannot fail to be justly appreciated.

The second point to be explained is the fact that there is much less risk in assuring diseased lives. This is a feature of paramount and vital importance to the interests of this society, and deserves to be carefully considered.

The real risk incurred in all assurance transactions consists in the chance to which an office is liable of experiencing a different degree of mortality from that expected by the tables on which its calculations are founded. This difference is termed the fluctuation of mortality, and will be found to be much less among diseased lives than over the general population, and among selected lives.

The deaths from consumption in the metropolis per annum are sufficiently near the annual number which takes place in Glasgow, from all causes, to admit of a comparison, and by reducing the matter to figures it is found that while the fluctuation per annum in the latter case is as high as 45 per cent., in the former it is only 9 per cent., or, in other words, the fluctuation of mortality in consumption was only one-fifth of the other; and in Manchester, Liverpool, and Birmingham, even with the disadvantage of smaller numbers, the fluctuation does not exceed one-tenth of the annual number. Consumption has been selected, not because it was considered more favourable in its results, but simply on account of the larger numbers affording a more satisfactory proof of the question under consideration; but the same test has been applied to a great number of other diseases, and like results obtained. Among nine diseases in the metropolis, including asthma, dropsy, rheumatism, disease of the liver, of the heart, of the nervous system, &c., the fluctuation was only 7½ per cent., and in five diseases in a different district the fluctuation was about 7 per cent., while among eleven in another locality, and even with small numbers, the fluctuation did not exceed 8½ per cent.; and taking the principal towns in England, including Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, &c., the fluctuation over eleven of the more important diseases was 6½ per cent.

The remarkable uniformity in these results cannot fail to produce a conviction of the positive character of the law of mortality in disease; indeed, there seems to be nothing within the whole range of the doctrine of probabilities so well defined as the mortality of diseased lives. The mortality of the general population has frequently been referred to by writers as an example of the certainty of common events, but the preceding remarks must show with how much greater certainty the mortality of diseased lives can be depended on.

It is perhaps right to state that, in applying the test of fluctuation to disease, it has not been confined to one place or class of lives, but has been extended to the principal towns in England and Scotland, as well as to many rural districts in England, and included the experience of one or two large societies of select lives. This has afforded an opportunity of judging of the effects of locality and its sanitary condition on the duration of life, and a remarkable fact has thus been developed, viz., that the value of life generally is much greater in the country districts than in large cities; but that of those persons who suffer from disease the value of life is nearly the same. As an example of this—the expectation at the age of 30 in the country districts is 36·7 years; in cities (viz., Glasgow) 27·6 years—difference 33 per cent. nearly; but take the case of persons of that age in whom the consumptive tendency is developed, and who will ultimately die of consumption, and their expectation of life in the counties of Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk, will be found to be 14·5, in cities (Glasgow) 14·4, and in the metropolis, Manchester, Birmingham, 13·9; difference 0·17 per cent. (or 1·57 per cent.). It therefore appears that while the difference between country and town life in the former case is about 33 per cent., that in the latter instance (consumption) the difference is almost nothing, and the results nearly uniform. The same thing holds good with some other diseases, which have been investigated in this manner. This fact, although not generally understood, is only what might have been expected by a careful consideration of the conclusion formerly arrived at—that the fluctuation of the law of mortality in disease is confined within a very narrow limit, and consequently little influenced by external circumstances.

It hence appears that the fluctuation in the mortality of diseased lives is much less than among select lives and the population generally, and therefore the risk of assuring diseased lives must also be less.

To apply this conclusion to the affairs of an assurance office it may be stated, that supposing the number of lives in a society, taking only select lives, was such that the table of mortality would indicate 100 deaths per annum, it would be necessary to have always sufficient funds at immediate command to meet 145 deaths; on the other hand, an office assuring only diseased lives need not provide more than 109 deaths per annum; that is to say, the risk of assuring diseased lives is to that of average lives as 9 to 45, or only one-fifth. This fact is highly important to the interests of this Society, and establishes beyond doubt the safety and correctness of the principles on which it is founded.

For further information reference is made to the prospectuses and other published documents of the Society, which may be obtained, on application, at the Society's offices.

F. G. P. NEILSON, Actuary.

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